

BAPTISM, WHAT IT CAN AND CANNOT DO

Int.

1. Aim: To show what the Bible teaches that Baptism can and cannot do.
2. Rom. 6:1-5 V. 4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
3. Baptism is immersion
 - a. Word means to dip, plunge, submerge
 - b. Sprinkling was not practiced in the early church.
4. Some have false views about baptism
 - a. Some say it is not essential
 - b. Others attribute too much to baptism
5. What the Bible teaches about any subject is the truth for us to obey.

Discussion

I. WHAT BAPTISM CANNOT DO

A. [1] It cannot change the heart

1. Acts 15:9 "And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."
2. Our heart is changed by our emotion, will, and intellect
3. Faith will produce a change in the heart.
4. Baptism does not change the heart !

5. "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37 NKJV

B. [2] It cannot change the life

1. Mt. 21:28-29 "But what think ye? A [certain] man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went."
2. Repentance is a change of heart produced by the word of God that results in a change of our life.
3. Immersion in water, without repentance, does not change life

C. [3] It cannot remove temptation

1. Those who have been baptized still meet temptation:
 - a. Jesus - Mt. 3:13-4:11
 - b. Demas - II Tim. 4:10
 - c. Simon - Acts 8:13-24
2. We must resist temptation and look for a way of escape - 1 Cor.10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

D. [4] It cannot make one sinless

1. Baptism forgives all past sins, does not make us immune to sin
2. Acts 5 - Ananias and Sapphira -- examples - they lied and they died

E. [5] It cannot guarantee eternal salvation

1. II Pet. 2:20-22 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
2. A Christian can fall - just because we have been baptized does not mean that we can coast right into heaven without any effort
3. Paul said: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27 "Discipline" NKJV

F. [6] It cannot make a baby a Christian

1. Mark 16:16 tells us that we must believe before baptism
2. Infants are not capable of believing, therefore they are not proper subjects of N.T. baptism.
3. Infants and young children do not need baptism since they are not lost. They are not sinners !!!

G. [7] It does not allow us to keep that which has been illegally taken

1. Peter says that we must repent and be baptized - Acts 2:38
2. If you had stolen my car and then were baptized, repentance would demand that you return my car.
3. If you've taken another person's mate, you can't expect to keep him/her just because you've been baptized.
4. Herod the Tetrach had taken his brother's wife. John the Baptist told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." Mt. 14:4

H. [8] Baptism does not sanctify an unlawful marriage

1. Baptism will forgive past sins
2. But baptism will not turn an unscriptural marriage into something God will accept.
3. Mt. 19:9 - "whosoever" includes all people

I. [9] Baptism does not free a man from legal penalties

1. A person who violates the law of the land and is duly tried and being punished must suffer that penalty even after they are baptized.
2. Baptism will forgive us of our sins in the sight of God, but we still must answer the civil laws and pay the penalty for our sins.
3. Jeffrey Dahmer was tried and convicted of being a multiple murderer. While in prison he learned the truth and was baptized for the remission of his sins. He still remained in prison, because he owed a debt to society for his crimes. He was killed by another inmate.
4. Rom. 13:4 "...beareth not the sword in vain."

- J. There are some things that Baptisms cannot do...but then there are some things that baptism can do...

II. WHAT BAPTISM CAN DO

A. [1] It puts one into Christ

1. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
2. It must be preceded by Faith Repentance AND Confession
3. This is the only way one gets into Christ

B. [2] It puts one into his death

1. Rom. 6:3-5 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"
2. We can only receive the benefits of his death by being baptized
3. Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ."
 - a. Our old self has died - Christ has taken his place
 - b. We have died to sin as Christ died on Calvary
 - c. One cannot be dead to sin until he is in the body of Christ which is entered through baptism
4. No other act would so fitly represent the complete ending of a life of sin.
5. Then we walk in newness of life.

C. [3] Baptism saves us

1. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
 - a. B + B = Salvation
 - b. 2 + 2 = 4
2. 1 Pet. 3:21 - "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

D. [4] Remission of sins

1. Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
2. Remission = freedom, pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty - their sins were removed or blotted out

E. [5] Sins washed away

1. Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
2. Like dirt that is removed from our body - it is gone - have remitted
3. Heb. 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

F. [6] Baptized into the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

1. Mt. 28:19
2. Name = by the authority
3. To be baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is to be brought into actual subjection to the combined authority of heaven
 - a. This brings us into covenant relation with the Godhead
 - b. Baptism brings us into the fullness of the blessings of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

G. [7] Baptized into the Body of Christ

1. 1 Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
2. The Body and the Church are the same - Eph. 1:22-23
3. The only way to get into the church is to be baptized into Christ
4. Acts 2:47

H. [8] Baptized into a New Life

1. Rom. 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
2. New = different
3. This newness of life is permanent

4. We ought to exhibit the conduct proper to that life into which we were born through faith at baptism

I. [9] Baptism is part of the New Birth

1. John 3:3-5 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

2. Born of Water and the Spirit

CONCLUSION

1. Baptism in water, by immersion, is a part of the gospel - Mk. 16:15-16
2. There are some things baptism cannot do:
 - a. It Cannot Change the Heart
 - b. It cannot change the life
 - c. It cannot remove temptation
 - d. It cannot make one sinless
 - e. It cannot guarantee eternal salvation
 - f. Make a baby a Christian
 - g. Allow us to keep that taken illegally
 - h. Sanctify an unlawful marriage
 - i. Free a man from legal penalties

3. Baptism is Important for it:

- a. Puts us into Christ
- b. Puts us into His death - Where we have the benefits of his death
- c. Saves us from our sins
- d. Remission of sins
- e. Washed away
- f. Because we were baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we are under their authority to live a new life.
- g. Baptized into the body of Christ
- h. Into a new life
- i. Baptism is a part of the New Birth and We are born again

4. Have you been baptized? If not, why do you wait?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - July 1, 2007 Sunday Morning
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