

Bible Baptism

Int.

1. Aim: To contrast some of the teachings of men about baptism with what the Bible teaches.
2. 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."
 - a. There are 269 chapters in the N.T. The word Baptize or one of its related words such as "baptized" or "baptism" appears more than 100 times. -
 - b. Shows that baptism is important
3. A little boy was asked in Sunday School to explain baptism. He said, "It's when the preacher holds you under water and you think about Jesus!"
4. There have been many controversies about baptism through the centuries.
 - a. Some have different opinions about the method of baptism.
 - b. There are questions about who should be baptized.
 - c. And there are many differences of opinion about the purpose of baptism.
5. The reason for the controversies is because men teach what they think and like.
6. But let us look at the Bible and see what it teaches.
7. We will notice Who, How and Why about Bible baptism.

Discussion

I. WHO IS A SUBJECT OF BAPTISM ?

A. Men Teach

1. Infants - are subjects of baptism
2. Men and women - adults - as well as men and children

B. The Bible Teaches

1. Men and women - people of the age of accountability
2. Matt 28:19 (KJV) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
3. Teaching precedes baptism - Rom. 10:17
4. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Believe + Baptism = saved
5. Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized

C. An infant is not the subject of baptism because...

1. They cannot be taught and they cannot believe.
2. Neither can he repent of his sins
3. They are not in a lost condition - men teach total depravity - the idea that we inherit the guilt of sin all the way back to Adam.

D. Mark 10:13-16

1. "Of such is the kingdom of God"
2. Infants are not lost / therefore they do not need to be saved
3. They do not need to be cleansed of their sins through baptism.
4. When they reach the age of accountability then they would be subject to baptism

II. HOW IS ONE BAPTIZED ?

A. Men teach:

1. Immersion
2. Sprinkling
3. Pouring
4. "Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant" - [Church of the Nazarene Manual, 1972 ed., p. 33.]
5. "What is the meaning of the word 'baptize'? 'Baptize' means to apply water by washing, pouring, sprinkling, or immersing" - [Luther's Small Catechism, par. 244, p. 170.]
6. "How is baptism given? It is given by pouring water over the forehead of the person to be baptized ..." - [A Catechism for Adults (Catholic), 1975 ed., p. 63.]

B. The Bible Teaches:

1. Immersion - Burial
2. Rom. 6:4-5 "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:"
3. Col. 2:12 (NKJV) "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with [Him] through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."
4. **Baptize** = "Baptizo" = it means: "to dip, plunge, immerse, or submerge"

C. Baptism requires

1. Much Water - Jn. 3:23
2. Going to Water - Acts 8:36
3. Going into water - Acts 8:38
4. Coming out of water - Acts 8:39

D. Immersion in water is the baptism of the Bible

E. In violation of the New Testament practice, several denominations have substituted the practice of "sprinkling" or "pouring" in place of baptism.

1. Yet Paul tells us that baptism is a burial, and that it corresponds to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ - Rom. 6:3-9
2. How does sprinkling compare to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection?
 - a. Does one resurrect from being sprinkled?
 - b. If "sprinkling" is equivalent with "baptism," then we should be able to insert "sprinkling" in the Bible for "baptism."
 - c. This is how Roman 6:4 would read, "Therefore we were buried with Him through sprinkling [baptism, actual text] into death..."
 - d. Such a rendering sows nonsense in the context.
3. Such a view would have Philip and the eunuch going down "into the water" so that Philip could sprinkle him (Acts 8:38)?
 - a. Why would they both have had to go down into the water for a sprinkling?
 - b. Philip could have merely grabbed a cup full of water and splashed it in the Ethiopian's face and called it "baptism."

4. Beware of denominations which substitute human ways for God's, for they are nothing more than a human substitution for the church. We need to stay in the boundaries of the Bible!

F. How are we baptized ?

1. It is possible for a person to be sprinkled or to have water poured on them.
2. But it is not possible for a person to be baptized by sprinkling or pouring.
3. That would be like saying a person can be immersed by sprinkling or pouring.
4. That is self-contradictory.
5. According to the New Testament baptism is a burial or immersion in water.
6. "You don't make a pickle by taking a cucumber and sprinkling a little vinegar over it. You immerse it." --Harold J. Seymour

G. Illustration - The Indian and the Preacher

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED ?

A. Men Teach:

1. Believe = Salvation - then baptized
2. Many teach that the sinner comes first to salvation and then he should be baptized.
3. This is saying that they are saved before and without baptism.
4. "Baptism is not essential to salvation ... but it is essential to obedience, since Christ commanded it. It is also essential to membership in the church which is his body" - Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, Hiscox (pp. 20,21), via Handbook of Religious Quotations, p. 10.

5. The Seventh Day Adventist "Baptismal Vow" requires a person, before baptism, to answer this question: "...have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you believe that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins, and given you a new heart?" - via Handbook of Religious Quotations, p. 12.

B. The Bible Teaches a different order

1. The Bible says that the sinner comes through baptism unto salvation.
 2. Believe, repent, confess, baptized and then salvation comes.
 3. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
 - (1) "He that eateth and digesteth his food shall live; but he that eateth not shall die."
 - (2) No need to say "He that eateth not and digesteth not his food shall die."
 4. Illustration:
 - a. He that believeth and is baptized shall be given a new car.
 - b. He that believeth and is baptized shall be given a thousand dollars.
 - c. He that believeth and is baptized shall be given a month's vacation.
 - d. He that believeth and is baptized shall be give a free trip to Europe.
 - e. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mark 16:16
 - f. We can understand the first four. Why not the last one??
 5. Acts 22:16 (KJV) "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'
- NKJV

CONCLUSION

1. How Do you view baptism?
 - a. But one man may say, "According to my understanding of this controversy, it requires some knowledge of a dead language called *Greek*, in order to render an intelligent decision as to what baptism is; and as I am no scholar, I think *God* will not hold me to an account if I should happen to decide in incorrectly."
 - b. It is a mistake to suppose that it requires scholarship in any dead language to determine what baptism is.
 - c. it is possible that every man who has ordinary common sense can take his own English New Testament, and learn from a careful study of it, what *God* requires of him in order that he may live a life well pleasing in the sight of our *Maker*.
2. What does the Bible teach about baptism?
 - a. Who is to be baptized? - those old enough to know and understand
 - b. How are we to be baptized? - it is a burial or immersion in water
 - c. Why are we baptized ? - for the remission of our sins
3. Are you ready to be baptized ?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Oct. 19, 2008
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Illustration: The Indian and the Preacher

Once upon a time, a preacher
Of Ole John Wesley's band,
Went forth upon a mission
Out in Indian land.
He gave the chief a Bible
And journeyed on his way,
But came back through that section
At a somewhat later day.

The chief called on the preacher-
Whatever did give rise?
"Chief want to be a Christian,
Me ready be baptized."
The preacher brought his "Jordan,"
A little china bowl,
Then catechized the Indian
With reference to his soul.

The chief gazed at the vessel
With an apprehensive look.
"The pond, he much too little,
You give 'um chief wrong book."
The preacher urged and argued
That a small amount would do,
But failed to turn the Indian
From his "heap much water" view.

But the preacher finally consented
To let his custom slip;
He'd go down in the river
And give the chief a dip
"No, No," the chief responded,
"You try to change God's plan
From dip to little sprinkle - -
Me guess you be wrong man."