

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Int.

1. Aim: To answer some of the many questions about the subject of Baptism.
2. Baptism is an important and controversial subject
 - a. Many scriptures about baptism
 - b. Many questions that have arisen about this subject
 - c. It has been discussed and debated for many years.
3. We will consider some of these questions

Discussion

I. IS SPRINKLING REALLY BAPTISM ?

- A. The Scriptures teach that Baptism is a burial- Buried =to cover from view, submerge
 1. Col. 2:12 - "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."
 2. Baptism requires:
 - a. Much water [not a cup full]- Jn. 3:23
 - b. A going to the water - Acts 8:36
 - c. Going down into the water - Acts 8:38 - both went down
 - d. A coming up out of the water - Matt. 3:16
 3. Definitions
 - a. Greek word Baptizo = means to dip, immerse, submerge, plunge under, bury
 - b. The Greek word for sprinkle is "rantizo" and the Greek word for Pouring is "cheo".
 - c. But in every place where baptism is discussed the word "baptizo" occurs never the words "rantizo" or "cheo".

B. History of Sprinkling

1. In 251 A.D. a man by the name of Novation lay sick in bed unable to get up for immersion, and was thus sprinkled with water, but only upon the promise that if he were to recover he would be immersed.
 - a. Later, having fully recovered, Novation refused to be immersed in water.
 - b. When he was seeking the office of bishop many were against his ordination because he had been "Merely sprinkled and had not been wholly immersed in water, in the ancient method" (Historical Commentary, Mosheim, vol. I, p. 62).
 - c. Thus came sprinkling as Novation's innovation of baptism.
2. Sprinkling or pouring is called "affusion". Or sometimes "Besprinkled".
3. At first it was only used for those who were sick or invalid.
4. Historically, it took many years for sprinkling and pouring to gain wide acceptance.
 - a. According to Brenner, the Catholic scholar, "For thirteen hundred years baptism was an immersion of the person under water".
 - b. Official recognition wasn't given to sprinkling until 1311 A.D. at the Council of Ravenna, "Baptism is to be administered by trine immersion or aspersion" [which is another word for sprinkling].
5. Today many religions give a choice: "Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion." [Discipline of the Methodist Church 1948 - p.470]

C. What is wrong with sprinkling? or Pouring?

1. It is an idea of man and not a doctrine of the Bible.
2. There is no scripture in the Bible to teach that sprinkling or pouring is baptism.
3. If sprinkling is not scriptural baptism then those who have been sprinkled have not really been baptized.
4. Therefore one who has only been sprinkled has not yet been baptized!!
5. Bible Baptism is a burial in water.

II. ARE WE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM?

A. Many religious groups teach that one is saved before and without baptism

1. They teach that a person is saved, forgiven of his sins, before baptism.
2. They deny that baptism has anything at all to do with the salvation of our soul.

B. What does the Bible teach?

1. Rm. 6:1-8 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 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: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

- a. V. 3 Baptism is what brings us "into Jesus Christ"
 - b. Baptism is "into his death"
 - c. If we are saved before we are baptized, then we are saved before we are "in Christ".
 - d. If we are saved before we are baptized, then we are saved before we are "buried with him."
 - e. In that case, we would not be buried a dead man and raised a new man as Paul teaches, but if we are saved first, then we bury a saved man, a live one, not a dead one. This cannot be true if Paul's words are true.
 - f. Paul teaches that we are dead by repentance, buried by baptism, and raised to walk in Newness of Life
2. II Cor. 5:17 This compares with what Paul said here "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- a. When is one a "new creature"?
 - b. It is when he is "in Christ"
 - c. But how does he come into Christ?
 - d. Paul says we are baptized into Christ - Rm. 6:3
 - e. If one is saved before baptism, he is saved outside of Christ, because baptism brings us "into Christ".

3. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 - a. Baptism is the means by which we come into Christ. It is the means by which we put on Christ.
 - b. If we are saved before baptism, then we are saved before we come "into Christ" and before we "put on Christ."

4. Some people will respond by asking: "Do you think that water washes sins away?" The answer is no! But Baptism does wash sins away
 - a. Acts 22:16 NKJV "' And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'"
 - b. Ananias told Saul (later called Paul) what he must do.
 - c. He was to be baptized, washing away his sins
 - d. If Paul was saved before he was baptized, then he was saved before his sins were washed away.

III. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM ?

A. Baptism Saves us

1. Note that Baptism Saves us - I 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:"
2. So we are not baptized because we are already saved. But we are saved by baptism. It is obedience to God.
3. Mark 16:16 NKJV "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
 - a. Believe + Baptism = Saved
 - b. Do not believe = Condemned [NKJV]

B. Baptism is for the 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. Baptism is immersion
3. Baptism is for the remission of sins
4. Remission = forgiveness ESV

C. Baptism is to save us from our past sins.

IV. CAN WE BE REBAPTIZED ? Or baptized the second time?

A. Acts 19:1-5

1. Here is a N.T. Example
2. This shows us what we must do in similar circumstances

B. If one has been immersed in the wrong way and for the wrong purpose, or without a right understanding of the necessity of baptism, then he should be baptized again.

1. These disciples at Ephesus had already been baptized - but they knew only the baptism of John the Baptist.
2. Paul taught them further on the subject of baptism and taught them about Christ.
3. They were then baptized a second time, but with the proper understanding.
4. A person can be scripturally baptized only one time!

C. Three requirements of scriptural baptism

1. Right person

- a. A believer in Jesus Christ - Mk.16:16
- b. No example of infants or infidels ever being baptized
- c. A believer who has repented, and confessed
- d. Can't be forced!! Must obey from the heart - Rm. 6:17

2. Right Action

- a. Bible baptism is immersion, or a burial
- b. No example of sprinkling or pouring

3. Right Purpose

- a. It is for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- b. It was not a church ordinance that followed the remission of sins!
- c. N.T. baptism was connected with the washing away of sins - Acts 22:16
- d. Baptism for any other purpose or reason is not Bible baptism!!

- D. In some cases one might need to consider his baptism and whether it was scriptural.
1. If the action did not meet the requirements of scripture in every respect then it is doubtful.
 - a. Sprinkling instead of immersion
 - b. Saved before and without baptism
 2. If the person did not understand the why and the wherefore of baptism then he needs to make his calling and election sure.
 3. God never intended that men be in doubt as to their relationship to him.
 4. If a question exists, then resolve it.

CONCLUSION

1. Have you been baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins?
2. If not then why do you wait?
3. It pays to make sure, especially in regard to the salvation of our soul
4. There is but one baptism and every sincere individual should not hesitate to be scripturally baptized!!
5. Acts 22:16 NKJV **"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."**

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning July 12, 2009
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