

Baptism

Introduction:

Such a simple subject has caused complex issues within various denominational bodies. Some believe baptism is not necessary for salvation and others teach that baptism is a means of being identified with a particular denomination. Some believe that baptism is done at birth and others believe that it can occur at any point of one's life. Some believe baptism to be a sprinkling of water and others believe it to be submergence in water. With so many views about baptism it is expedient that we study the subject. Let us define baptism, examine why one would be baptized, and then look to some examples of people being baptized.

I. What is Baptism?

- A. The word "*baptize*" (Greek – *baptizo*) = "to dip, immerse; to cleanse or purify by washing" (Moulton 65). "To dip in or under water" (LS 146). "To submerge... to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water... to overwhelm" (Thayer 94). "Dip" (AG 132). "To dip, be overwhelmed" (Vines 89).
- B. Baptism is defined by the apostle Paul as a burial (Rom. 6:1ff).
- C. Seeing that baptism is a submerging in water it stands to reason that "*much water*" is needed for such an action.
 1. John records, "*And John also was baptizing in Enon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized*" (Jn. 3:23).
 2. The Ethiopian eunuch noted a body of water and concluded that he must be baptized (see Acts 8:36-38).

II. Why be Baptized?

- A. The apostle Peter gave a crystal clear answer to this question at Acts 2:38. Baptism is for the purpose of being forgiven of sins.
- B. The Bible defines baptism as means whereby man's sins are washed away (Acts 22:16) and the answer of a good conscience (I Pet. 3:20ff).
- C. It is a commandment of God!

III. Bible Examples of People being Baptized:

- A. Jews on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38)
- B. The Samaritans (Acts 8:12-13)
- C. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-38)
- D. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18; 22:16)
- E. Cornelius the Gentile and his household (Acts 10:47-48)
- F. Lydia the seller of Purple from Thyatira (Acts 16:15)
- G. The Philippian jailor (Acts 16:32-34)
- H. The Corinthians (Acts 18:8)
- I. The disciples of John (Acts 19:4-5).

Conclusion:

Baptism is man's way of making manifest his faith in Jesus Christ's promises to forgive. If baptism is not for the forgiveness of sins then what is it for? The Bible tells us that people were baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. To assign another reason for baptism or to omit it in one's life is to be disobedient to the Lord's will.