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## Teachings Of Men

### The Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches

Chapter III, *Church Ordinances*: “Baptism is the immersion, or dipping, of a candidate in water, on a profession of his faith in Christ and **on evidence of regeneration**”

Note 8 – “**Baptism is not essential to salvation**, for our churches utterly repudiate the dogma of ‘baptismal regeneration’; but it is essential to obedience, since Christ has commanded it. It is also essential to a public confession of Christ before the world, and to membership in the church which is His body. And no true lover of his Lord will refuse these acts of obedience and tokens of affection.”

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Chapter IV, *Church Membership*: “It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but ‘one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,’ and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights and privileges of full membership. In that sense, ‘baptism was the door into the church.’ **Now, it is different**; and while the churches are desirous of receiving members, they are wary and cautious that they do not receive unworthy persons. The churches therefore have candidates come before them, make their statement, give their ‘experience,’ and then their reception is decided by a vote of the members. And while they cannot become members without baptism, yet it is the vote of the body which admits them to its fellowship on receiving baptism.”

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## Teachings Of Men

### Billy Graham

“Baptism is a command of Christ (Matthew 28:19) and the Apostles (Acts 2:38), but **it is not required for salvation**. Baptists, like all good Protestants, believe the Bible teaches that justification is **by faith alone and not by works** (Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).”

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## Teachings Of God

### Some Things Baptism **Will Do** For You

- Your sins are forgiven – Acts 2:38, “be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**”
- You are saved from your sins – Mark 16:16, “Whoever believes and is baptized **will be saved**” and I Peter 3:18-22, “Baptism ... now saves you.”
- You are added to the church – Acts 2:41,47, “there were **added that day** about three thousand souls ... **added to their number**” [“**added to the church**” – KJV]
- You are **IN** Christ – Galatians 3:26-27 “**in Christ Jesus**”

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## Teachings Of God

### Some Things Baptism **Will Not Do** For You

- Remove temptation – James 1:2-3, 12-15; I Corinthians 10:13; Romans 7:7-11; Ephesians 6:11
- Make you incapable of sin – Romans 3:10, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10, 2:1, “we deceive ourselves”

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## Teachings Of God

### Baptism Does Not Guarantee Eternal Salvation

- Salvation is spoken of in two senses:
  - Salvation from past sins – Mark 16:15-16
  - Eternal salvation – I Peter 1:3-5, “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
- Warnings to the Christian about losing his salvation
  - Galatians 6:1; cf. 5:4
  - Acts 8:13, 18-23, “Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours ...”
  - Luke 9:62, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God”

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## Teachings Of God

### Baptism Is Not The End Of Obedience

- Romans 6:4, “walk in newness of life”
- II Corinthians 5:17, “in Christ, he is a new creation”
- Baptism Is ESSENTIAL
  - You cannot be saved without it
- BUT baptism alone will not save you any more than faith alone
- Don’t minimize what baptism will do for you
- But don’t expect it to do for you things God never promised it would

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## Conclusion

- Teachings Of Men
  - Hiscox Guide
  - Billy Graham
- Teachings Of God
  - Things baptism **will** do for you
  - Things baptism **will not** do for you
  - Not a guarantee of eternal salvation
  - Not the only requirement

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## What IS Required?

- Hear the Word of God
  - Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
  - Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

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## What IS Required?

- Repent of your sins
  - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - I John 4:15 – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

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## What IS Required?

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
  - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Remain faithful
  - Hebrews 3:14 – “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”

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