

WHEN BAPTISM DOES NO GOOD

Acts 19:1-7

Introduction

Is baptism necessary for salvation?

It is often claimed by those who deny the essentiality of baptism that “baptism does no good”!

- In some cases, this is true!

Introduction

It is argued by some that baptism is ...

- A useless ritual.
- A superstitious relic of the past.
- “A work.”

Others deny that water baptism has any saving power!

But what does the Bible teach about baptism and its relationship to the gift of salvation?

Introduction

Baptism is a part of the “great commission” commanded by Jesus.

- This is recorded in 3 of the 4 gospel accounts
 - Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49
- Baptism occurred in EVERY recorded case of conversion in Acts ...
 - 2:38-47 (The 3,000); 8:5-13 (The Samaritans)
 - 8:36-38 (The Eunuch); 9:10-19; 22:14-17 (Saul of Tarsus)
 - 10:47-48 (Cornelius and his household)
 - 16:13-15 (Lydia); 16:27-34 (The Jailer in Philippi)
 - 18:5-8 (The Corinthians); 19:1-5 (The Ephesians)

Examples of Conversion

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-47

Preaching Believed Repented Confessed Baptized Saved					
Pentecost Acts 2:14-41		Repented 37-38		Baptized 38-41	Remission of sins 38-47
Samaria Acts 8:5-13	Believed 12			Baptized 12-13	
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	Believed 36-37		Confessed 37	Baptized 38	Rejoiced 39
Saul Acts 9:1-17; 22; 26				Baptized Acts 22:16; 9:18	Washed sins away Acts 22:16
Cornelius Acts 10:34-46; 11:14; 15:7	Believed 10:43; 15:7			Baptized 10:48	Remission of sins 10:43
Lydia Acts 16:13	Attended 14			Baptized 15	
Jailer Acts 16:32	Believed 31	Repented 33		Baptized 33	

Preaching Faith Repentance Confession Baptism Salvation
Romans 10:4; Hebrews 11:6; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:10; Galatians 3:26-27;
2 Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 5:8-9

Peter’s Sermon On Pentecost

Peter preached the first Gospel sermon in Acts 2

- He refuted false charges. Verses 14-16
- He explained and applied the prophecy of Joel to this event. Verses 17-21
- He preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Verses 22-36
- He responded to their question. Verse 37

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

What Was Peter's Response?

Peter DID NOT SAY ...

- "Accept Jesus as your personal savior."
- "Ask Jesus to come into your heart."
- "Pray the sinner's prayer."
- "You can't do anything because that would be earning your salvation."
- "You believe what I have preached so, now you're saved by faith alone."

Yet, some consider baptism as a "cure all" and "an end of the matter" which grants them salvation and immunizes them from any future spiritual danger.

The Truth lies
somewhere between
these false concepts of
men!

If Not Preceded By A Scriptural Understanding!

Baptism Does No Good

- The Corinthians, heard, believed, and were baptized. Acts 18:8
- Scriptural baptism requires one to hear, understand that Jesus died for all, and that sinners must obey him. Hebrews 11:6
 - John 3:16; 8:24; Hebrews 5:8-9
- Possible for one to be immersed, but not understand the reasons for it.
- Babies who are "baptized" have no understanding and such does no good.

If Not Preceded By Proper Faith in Christ

Baptism Does No Good

- One must believe the words of Christ. Mark 16:16
- One must believe the Divine nature of Jesus. Hebrews 1:4-5
- Sinners must believe they are lost before and without baptism into Christ. 1 Peter 3:21
- The Bible reveals that only sinners are told to be baptized.
 - Acts 2:36-38; 22:16; Romans 3:23

If Not Preceded By True Heartfelt Repentance

Baptism Does No Good

- The Apostle Peter commanded sinners to repent. Acts 2:27-38; cf. 8:14-24
- One who refuses to repent before baptism cannot be saved. Luke 13:3, 5
- When a sinner refuses to turn from his sins, it makes a mockery of the command that likens one's burial in water to the death of Christ.
 - Romans 6:1-6; Acts 26:20

If Not Preceded By The Scriptural "Good Confession"

1 Timothy 6:11-15; Matthew 16:16

Baptism Does No Good

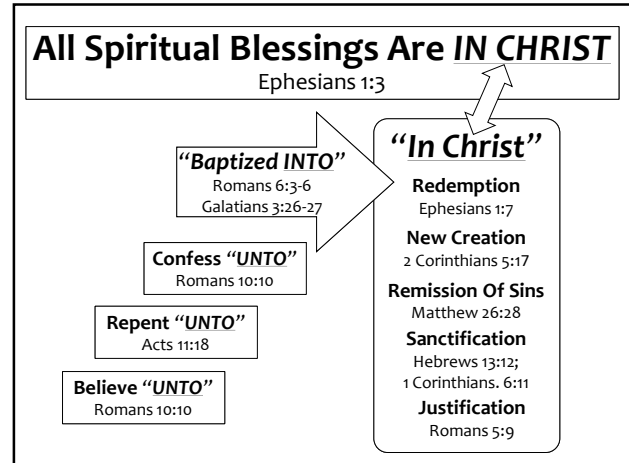
"And as they went on the way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch saith, Behold, (here is) water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (And Philip said, If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.)" Acts 8:36-37

Baptism Does No Good ↪

If Not Preceded By The Scriptural "Good Confession"
1 Timothy 6:11-15; Matthew 16:16

Denominational "confession" is foreign to scripture

- Many say something like, "I believe that God for Christ's sake has forgiven me"
- The Bible teaches that the forgiveness of the sins of the sinner occurs **at baptism** and not before!
 - Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-6; Acts 2:38-39
- We come in contact with the blood **at baptism** then remain in contact with the blood by "**walking in the light.**" 1 John 1:5-6
- Confession does not forgive the sins – it brings one "**unto salvation**"
 - Romans 10:8-11



Baptism Does No Good ↪

If It Is Not By Immersion In Water

- Scriptural baptism is a **burial** in water with Christ.
 - Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12
- Many advocate sprinkling, pouring, OR immersion – "take your pick."
- The Bible does not give us such options.
- The word "**baptism**" is from **baptizo** meaning to dip, plunge, or submerge.

Baptism Does No Good ↪

If Not Followed By A Faithful Life In Obedience To Christ. Acts 2:41-42, 47

- Sinners who "**gladly received his word.**"
 - "**were baptized**" and "**were added**"
 - "**And they continued stedfastly**"
 - "**in the apostles' doctrine**"
 - "**and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**"
- Some who have been baptized do not endure to the end nor mold their lives in obedience to Christ. 2 Peter 2:19-22
 - Matthew 24:13; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:1-3

Baptism Does No Good ↪

- If Not Preceded By A Scriptural Understanding.
- If Not Preceded By Proper Faith In Christ.
- If Not Preceded By True Heartfelt Repentance.
- If Not Preceded By The Scriptural "Good Confession."
- If It Is Not By Immersion In Water.
- If Not Followed By A Faithful Life In Obedience To Christ.

Did Your Baptism Do You Any Good?

Psalms 26:2, "Examine me, O Jehovah, and prove me; try my heart and my mind."

2 Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves, **whether ye be in the faith**; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (KJV)