

Baptism: The Last Step In God's Plan Of Salvation

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Introduction:

- A. Why is this issue so hard?
 - 1. Rather than complicating it with an in-depth study, just ask the Bible.
 - 2. Libraries have been written on the subject, and with few exceptions, have clouded rather than clarified the issue.
- B. Let's just look at the word of God.

I. BIBLE BAPTISM

- A. It is for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38
 - 1. It is for sinners.
- B. It is an act of faith - Col. 2:12
 - 1. Faith is essential - Heb. 11:6
 - 2. Baptism is essential - John 3:5
- C. Washes away sins - Acts 22:16
 - 1. It is in water - Acts 8:38
- D. Saves - Titus 3:5; 1Peter 3:20-21
 - 1. Demands a right attitude - "good conscience" - Col. 2:12
 - 2. Baptism is a change - Rom. 6:3-7
- E. Baptism puts one in Christ - Gal. 3:27
 - 1. Making him a child of God - Gal. 3:26
 - 2. For redemption - Eph. 1:7; 1Peter 1:18-19
- F. One is added to the church - Acts 2:41-47
 - 1. The saved - Eph. 5:23
- G. There is one Bible baptism - Eph. 4:5

II. BAPTISM REQUIRES

- A. Water - Acts 10:47
- B. Much Water - John 3:23
- C. Coming to the Water - Acts 8:36
- D. Going into the Water - Acts 8:38
- E. Burial in the Water - Rom 6:4
- F. Resurrection from the Water - Col 2:12

III. BAPTISM IS PRECEDED BY:

- A. Hearing - Acts 18:8
- B. Believing - Mark 16:16
- C. Repenting - Acts 2:38
- D. Confessing Christ - Acts 8:36,37

IV. BAPTISM MUST BE TAUGHT

- A. Matt 28:18-20 - God delegated authority to us: teach, baptize, and teach.
- B. John 12:46-50 - The word will judge us.

1. Our attitude toward the unscripturally baptized person or unsaved people must be the same as that of Jesus.
 2. Matt. 11:29 - Meek, lowly.
 3. Peter 2:15 - Patient, kind, sympathetic.
- C. Four most common misunderstandings regarding baptism.
1. Don't understand what baptism is for, but does it ritually.
 - a. One who has not believed, repented, nor confessed with conviction is not saved when baptized.
 2. Holy Spirit baptism, but not water.
 - a. There is one baptism for all believers - Eph. 4:5
 3. Know the truth, but use the wrong mode of baptism (sprinkling, affusion or pouring)
 - a. But contextual use in scripture, by early historical precedent, and by all scholarly definitions it is immersion.
 4. Salvation is by faith and not works, and since baptism is a work, it is not necessary for salvation.
 - a. Such a view does violence to the word of God.

Conclusion:

- A. Baptism is pivotal.
1. On Judgment day everyone will believe, everyone will repent, everyone will confess, but only those who were baptized before Judgment day will enter heaven.
 2. On that day, mothers will be eternally separated from daughters, fathers from sons, husbands from wives, brothers from sisters, grandparents from grandchildren.
 3. What will make the difference is baptism.