

You Cannot Be Taught Wrong and Be Baptized Right

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction: Acts 19:1-5

- A. Issue is centered on 12 Ephesian believers who only knew John's baptism, and Paul baptized them into Christ.
 - 1. This text usually engenders two discussions:
 - 2. "Re-baptism" and "Salvation by denominational baptism"
- B. Can one be re-baptized?
 - 1. Only if you use the term to mean getting physically immersed twice.
 - 2. Some persons never truly obeyed the gospel of Christ from the heart, and so the second immersion is actually the first.
 - 3. Some persons come to doubt their initial faith and obedience and are immersed a second time, in which case the first immersion saved them and the second immersion satisfies their doubts of conscience.
 - 4. The Lord is the judge in these matters, not me. I merely accommodate their desire to obey within the bounds of scripture.
- C. Can one be saved if baptized by a denomination of men?
 - 1. Several denominations teach baptism for the remission of sins.
 - 2. First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Community Bible Church, and some sects of the Baptist Church.
 - 3. If I am baptized into one of these organizations for the remission of sins, am I currently in a saved condition?
 - 4. This is not about what building you were baptized in. Do NOT put words in my mouth. I am talking about which gospel you obeyed: the gospel of Christ or a doctrine of men.
 - 5. May I ask a few scriptural questions and let you decide?

I. WERE YOU TRULY BAPTIZED "FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS?"

- A. Only two of those sectarian churches listed actually teach that baptism saves one from sin.
 - 1. Most teach that one is saved at the point of faith, that baptism is the outward sign of an inward grace, but that one must be baptized to show this grace.
- B. Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1Peter 3:21
 - 1. You must be taught that baptism remits sin and saves.
 - 2. You cannot be taught wrong and be baptized right.

II. WERE YOU BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST?

- A. Most of the sectarians do not baptize by the authority of Christ.
 - 1. Baptisms authorized by committee, creed, or vote.
- B. Acts 2:38; Matt. 28:19; Acts 19:1-5
 - 1. If one is not baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, one is not baptized.
 - 2. Denominations are not authorized by Christ to baptize.
 - 3. You cannot be taught wrong and be baptized right.

III. WERE YOU BAPTIZED THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

- A. Not one of these sects teach the pure gospel of Christ, including the facts as well as the commands and promises.
 - 1. Any blending with a doctrine of men makes it a poisonous mix.
- B. Mark 16:15; 2Thes. 2:13-14; 2John 9
 - 1. If you were taught anything more or less than the gospel of Christ, you were taught wrong.
 - 2. You cannot be taught wrong and be baptized right.

IV. WERE YOU BAPTIZED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST?

- A. None of these sects baptize into the body of Christ; they baptize one into their denomination which they claim is a part of an ecumenical body of Christ composed of many faiths.
 - 1. What does the Bible say? - Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18
- B. 1Cor. 12:12-14; Acts 8:12; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 5:23, 27; Acts 4:12
 - 1. If you are not baptized into the body of Christ, you are not saved.
 - 2. To say that one can be baptized into the body of Christ by a denomination is to teach that denomination is part of the body of Christ.
 - 3. To say that one can be saved when baptized into a denomination of men is to teach that salvation can be found in the denominations of men. If one can be saved in a denomination, then there is no point in leaving the denomination.
 - 4. You cannot be taught wrong and be baptized right.
- C. "What about the Ethiopian Eunuch? He was baptized in a deserted area and was going home to where there was no church building."
- D. Let's ask our questions - Acts 8:25-39
 - 1. Was he baptized for the remission of sins?
 - a. Philip taught him beginning with Isaiah 53:4-10.
 - 2. Was he baptized in the name of Christ?
 - a. Acts 8:35,37
 - 3. Was he baptized through the gospel of Christ?
 - a. What do you think Philip preached? Acts 8:35-36, 12
 - 4. Was he baptized into the body of Christ?
 - a. Philip preached no less; Acts 8:12.

Conclusion:

- A. "What about my baptism?" (You answer the scriptural questions).
 - 1. Was it for the remission of sins?
 - 2. Was it in the name of Christ?
 - 3. Was it according to His unchanged gospel?
 - 4. Were you baptized into the Lord's Church?
- B. One more question: Was it from the heart?
 - 1. Rom. 6:17-18