

21st CENTURY TRUTHS

Volume 1

(*Need of Baptism*)

Issue 7

SPRINKLING OR BURIAL?

Most professing to be a Christian have heard of baptism and yet very few understand what it truly is. An honest study of God's Word will reveal what baptism is and how such is in God's plan of salvation as revealed in His word.

A question we must consider is "What is the act of and required for a scriptural baptism?" To begin, in John 3:3 we find that John the Baptizer moved to a town called Aenon for the reason "there was much water". From this single passage we find that not only is water needed but much water. We further see the necessity of much water in the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Act 8:29-39. As Philip taught the gospel of Christ, the Eunuch notices a "body of water" and inquires "See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36) The Bible states "...they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water..." (Acts 8:39-40) It only make sense that for you to go "down...into" the water much water is needed. Furthermore, you cannot "come up out of" unless you first go down into the water.

Looking at this with very simple minded thinking, does it take "much water" to pour or sprinkle a little on ones head? Can you go down into or come up out of a pouring or sprinkling of water? We see from the passages above, the act of baptism as God requires necessitates much water so that one can go down and come up out of it. Sprinkling and pouring are insufficient, unauthorized and contrary to God's standard as revealed in His word.

This is exactly what the apostle Paul was trying to get across when he penned "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory

of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:3-4) True baptism is exactly that; a burial/immersion in much water. Water that we enter completely into and are then raised up out of. This is God's plan of salvation. A likeness to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; we die to sin, are buried with Him and raised a new being.

At the sake of being redundant, how would you like for the cemeteries to bury the physically dead the way many in the religious world "baptize/bury" individuals today? A light sprinkling of dirt over the body, pouring of a glass of dirt, even a large hand shovel of earth does not bury a corpse. **NOR DOES SUCH PRACTICE BAPTIZE/IMMERSE/BURY ONE IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE TODAY.** It needs to be understood that the entire notion of sprinkling or pouring was NOT baptism in the first century NOR IS IT ACCEPTABLE TODAY. Such "innovation" came about by man altering the plan of God to their own purpose or convenience and thereby "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

I understand that some questions herein are almost nonsense but this is what many in the religious world today teach. Understand, for us to be pleasing to God, we must follow His standard, His pattern. This applied to His people in the Old Testament (Ezek. 43:10, Hebr. 8:5), those in the first century (II Tim. 1:13), AND TO US TODAY (II Tim. 2:2).

If you haven't been baptized as God has specified, then you are NOT truly baptized. If not, why not do so today.

Randy M. Meyer

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

All of us desire salvation. Our need for salvation comes from the very fact that we "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) When we commit sin we create a separation between ourselves and God. (Isa. 59:2) Understand however that it is our OWN sin that severs our relationship with God and not the sin of anyone else. (Ezek. 18:20) It is not He that causes the separation or the sins of any other but our own personal sins.

In I John 3:4, the scriptures further tell us "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law" and "All unrighteousness is sin." (I John 5:17) There is insufficient space here today to even begin to discuss how the passages above should dismiss any man made notion of infants are sinful and therefore in need of salvation. It is the one which commits unrighteousness (disobedience to God's law) that is guilty of sin. An infant is unable to do such. These passages do however speak to all of those which have the ability to comprehend the fact that they have disobeyed God.

Once we have transgressed God's law, even once, the only thing we are deserving of is death. (Rom. 6:23) It is only by the goodness of God that we have a hope of salvation. Our eternal place of dwelling is dependant upon being made clean and gaining salvation in accordance to God's divine plan.

The bible instructs that we must have our sins washed away. Those on the day of Pentecost understood their sins separated them from God. Peter instructed "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38) In Acts 22:16, we find "...arise, and be baptized, and wash away their sins, calling on the name of the Lord." It is **ONLY** through baptism that we will have remission of sins. Contrary to what many believe today, salvation comes only AFTER one is obedient to God and entering into the watery grave of baptism.

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1st Century Truths for the 21st Century

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

(Acts 22:16)

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"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:28)

There are numerous passages and examples of the necessity of baptism. Every example of conversion throughout the book of Acts culminates in one becoming a Christian by being baptized. (Acts 2:38-41, 8:12-13, 8:38, 10:48, 16:15, 33) Christ stated "He that believeth AND IS BAPTIZED shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16) Those are the words of our Lord. The same Lord many claim to follow but yet refuse to accept his complete teaching when it is not convenient. If you truly love Christ, you will believe and obey Him. (John 14:23) It is only through Christ that we can be saved.

Many will claim that all one must do to be saved is to "call on the name of Christ", "just believe in Him", say the "sinners prayer". I am sorry if what is about to come is hard to hear and accept but such teaching is contrary to the word of God and therefore nothing less than false doctrine. My question to those which proclaim such ideas, are your practices consistent with the Word of God? In other words, are you following the standard and pattern set forth in the Bible or "making it up as you go along"?

However, consider rather what the word of God reveals with respect to the correlation between baptism and salvation.

Paul recorded by the inspiration of the Spirit "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:23) The apostle Peter wrote "...in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..." (I Peter 3:20-21)

In Acts 4:12, we find "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." It is HIS WAY and HIS WAY ONLY that will allow our sorry sinful selves the opportunity for remission of sins and salvation of our eternal souls.

Have you obtained remission of your sins through baptism. If not, the above-passages and many others plainly teach salvation is not then yours. If there is anything in which we can assist you in becoming a Christian as set forth in the word of God and practiced in the first century, please contact us today. Life is short, death is sure and judgment certain. Make certain you are ready TODAY!

Randy M. Meyer

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