

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Text: Acts 8:36

INTRO: Baptism is definitely a Bible subject. It is one of the last things Jesus spoke about before He ascended into heaven, MT 28:18-20. When Simon Peter was sent to the house of Cornelius to tell him words by which he & his family could be saved, Acts 11:14, Peter, among other things "commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48).

When Paul found some men in Ephesus whose baptism was not preceded by the proper teaching, he taught them more fully & rebaptized them, Acts 19:1-5.

Because of its obvious importance to N.T. Christianity, we want to ask & answer three important questions re N.T. baptism.

I. WHAT IS N.T. BAPTISM?

- A. It is a burial. Col 2:12; Rom 6:3-4; Acts 8:38.
- B. It is in water, Acts 8:38; 10:47; 1 Pet 3:20-21
- C. It is by Divine authority, MT 28:18-20; Acts 2:38
- D. It is for remission & salvation, Acts 2:38; MK 16:16

NOTE: The "in the name of" verses do not demand some spoken formula or verbal ritual. They tell us what to do, the do not tell us what to say.

II. WHO NEEDS TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER?

- A. Sinners, Acts 2:38; 22:16.
 - 1. Infants & young children are not answerable to God's spiritual laws, thus not charged with sins. Rom 7:9; Matt 18:3
 - 2. Tho all sinners need the blessings God has linked with N.T. baptism, there are some prerequisites that must be met before baptism can be scripturally administered.
 - a. Repentance of sins, Acts 2:38
 - b. The sinner cannot properly repent until he comes to believe the truth re the identity & authority of Christ.

c. One cannot believe until he has heard or read the gospel of Jesus, Rom 10:13-17.

III. DOES ANY BAPTIZED BELIEVER EVER NEED TO BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?

A. Some did in Acts 19:1-5.

B. A person never needs to be baptized more than once correctly. But he should keep on till he gets it right. Eph 4:5; Rom 6:17

1. If a person has received "infant baptism" he needs to obey from the heart. A baptism that precedes faith & repentance is not N.T. baptism.
2. If a person has submitted to a "baptism" that was not a burial, he needs to obey from the heart the form of teaching. Rom 6:17
3. If one has been baptized on human authority, he needs to try again on God's authority.
 - a. Men don't have a vote in N.T. baptism.
 - b. If the baptizer is required to have credentials no N.T. preacher had...
 - c. If the baptizer asked the "candidate" to wait till later...
 - d. If the baptism was in order to put the candidate into an unscriptural church...
 - e. If the baptism was administered under the mistaken impression that the candidate had already been forgiven for his sins...

CONCLUSION: N.T. baptism is important enough that no accountable person can afford to ignore it & no person who has been unscripturally baptized can afford to be satisfied short of obedience from the heart to the baptism taught & practiced in the N.T. Scriptures.

La Porte, TX, December 13, 1981
La Porte, TX, March 20, 1983
Exton, PA, November 3, 1991
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 24, 1991
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 5, 2000
Wharton, NJ, May 13, 2000 (meeting)
Fairlawn, NJ, May 14, 2000