

Baptism: The Fifth Step in God's Plan of Salvation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

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 this 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 of sinners - Acts 2:38
- 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
 - 1. Demands a right attitude - 1Peter 3:20-21
 - 2. Generates a change - Rom. 6:3-7
- E. Baptism puts one in Christ - Gal. 3:27
 - 1. Makes him a child of God - Gal. 3:26
 - 2. For our redemption - Eph. 1:7; 1Peter 1:18-19
- F. Adds one to the church - Acts 2:41-47
 - 1. Which is made up of the saved - Eph. 5:23
- G. There is one Bible baptism - Eph. 4:4-6

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. Our attitude toward unscripturally baptized persons or unsaved people must be the same as that of Jesus.
 - 1. Matt. 11:29 - Humble and gentle

2. 2Peter 3:9, 15 - Patient

V. FOUR MOST COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING BAPTISM

- A. Don't understand what baptism is for, but do it ritually.
 - 1. One who has not believed, repented, nor confessed with conviction is not saved when baptized.
- B. Holy Spirit baptism, but not water.
 - 1. There is one baptism for all believers - Eph. 4:5
- C. Know the truth, but use the wrong mode of baptism (sprinkling, affusion)
 - 1. But contextual use in scripture, by early historical precedent, and by all scholarly definitions it is immersion.
- D. Salvation is by faith and not works, and since baptism appears to be a work, it is not necessary for salvation.
 - 1. Such a view does violence to the word of God.
 - 2. "Work of faith" - 1Thes. 1:3; 2Thes. 1:11

VI. WHO IS A PROSPECT FOR BAPTISM?

- A. What is the purpose of baptism?
 - 1. It is for the remission of sins, converting a sinner into a Christian.
 - 2. It puts one into the church, making him subject to the blessings and responsibilities of a citizen in the kingdom of God.
 - 3. It is done following:
 - a. Hearing and understanding God's word - Rom 10:17
 - b. Faith in God's existence and power and in Jesus Christ as His Son - John 8:24
 - c. Repentance of sins - Luke 13:3
 - d. Confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God - Rom. 10:9-10
 - 4. Every person who has completed those four Divinely authorized instructions is a prospect for baptism.

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.
- B. 1Peter 3:21