



BAPTISM PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

Satan, through the pride of men's heart, has made baptism one of the most _____ topics in the church today. The Holy Spirit, through the Bible, declares it to be one of the most _____ topics in a Christian's life. As students AND teachers of God's Word we do not want to overlook or treat lightly any subject that Jesus has taught. In order for a person's baptism to be pleasing to God it needs to meet God's standards; not ours, not our parents, not some church's, but God's. If a person's baptism does not satisfy God then neither should it satisfy that person.

There are actually five baptisms found in the New Testament and yet Paul says in Ephesians 4:5 there is "one baptism". Does the Bible contradict itself or is there an explanation? A careful study of Scriptures will show that by the time Paul wrote his letter to the church at Ephesus about 62–63 A.D. there was, and still is, only one baptism for the church. The five mentioned in the New Testament are:

- (1) The baptism of _____, the forerunner of Jesus.
 - a. This baptism was a literal act performed by John for the nation of Israel only and was to prepare the way for Jesus and is no longer valid (Acts 18:24–26; 19:1-4).
- (2) The baptism of _____.
 - a. This was a term used figuratively by Jesus in Mark 10:38–39 and Luke 12:50 to describe the suffering He, and later, His Apostles would undergo.
- (3) The baptism of _____.
 - a. This was another term used figuratively by Jesus in Matthew 3:11–12 and Luke 3:16–17 to describe the punishment that will be released upon those who refuse to obey the gospel.
- (4) The baptism of the _____.
 - a. This is the baptism that John referred to in Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16 and; John

1:33 and it is the baptism that Jesus PROMISED in Acts 1:5 and repeated in Acts 11:16. The promise was fulfilled in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost and in Acts 10 at the house of Cornelius.

- (5) The baptism of _____.
- a. This is the baptism that Jesus commissioned in Matthew 28:19 and the Apostles preached throughout the New Testament. It is a literal baptism in water that brings us into Jesus Christ.

John's baptism is no longer valid. The baptism of suffering and the baptism of fire are both speaking figuratively of things that would or will happen to certain people. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise to be received and was fulfilled in Acts 2 and Acts 10. We do not obey promises, we receive promises and Jesus alone decides who receives it. That leaves ONE BAPTISM that we need to concern ourselves with – the believer's baptism.

I. THE PRIORITY OF BAPTISM:

- A. Baptism is important for three distinct reasons:
 1. First of all because Christ _____ it (Matthew 28:18-20).
 2. Secondly, because the apostles _____ it.
 3. Thirdly, because the first century church _____ it and _____ it.
- B. In every case of conversion recorded in the book of Acts the person desiring salvation was baptized.
 1. Baptism is a part of the salvation process. No apostle ever told anyone he/she could be saved from past sins without baptism.
 2. What does John 14:15 say?
 3. What does Acts 8:39; 10:48 and 16:33 say about the importance and timing of a person's baptism?

II. THE PREREQUISITES OF BAPTISM:

- A. Baptism, on its own, is of no use. There are several things that must precede baptism:
 1. There is no case of anyone in the Bible being baptized who had not first _____ the Word preached.

- a. God has decreed that to be saved a man must hear, believe, and repent.
- b. Baptism is always mentioned in a context of faith, and faith comes by the hearing of the Word (Romans 10:17).
2. Baptism must be preceded by faith in Christ and a _____ of sin. (Acts 2:37).
 - a. Since baptism precedes one's initial forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38 and 22:16), then no one should be baptized until they realize they are a lost sinner.
3. Before anyone can be scripturally baptized he must make a complete _____ to Christ, believing in Him with all of his heart and trusting that He can save him.
4. He must also be willing to _____ with his mouth that Jesus is Lord.

Please read the following Scriptures and tell what each one says must come before baptism.

Romans 10:14

Romans 10:17

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38

Matthew 10:32

Romans 10:9-10

From what you now know of baptism, list some things that would disqualify infant baptism that so many churches practice.

III. THE PRACTICE OF BAPTISM:

- A. The word “baptize” is an untranslated Greek word, moved over into the English language by the translators who worked with King James (1611).
1. The practice of sprinkling was so entrenched both in the Catholic Church and the Church of England that to translate the Greek word as a burial would have condemned what they had been practicing.
 2. Consequently, the Greek work “baptizo” was NOT TRANSLATED but _____ to hide its true meaning.
 3. The “Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words” says that baptism is the process of immersion or submersion. In all Greek literature that was written contemporary to Jesus, “baptism” referred to a complete “covering up of” or “plunging into.”
 4. Kenny Boles, Greek Professor at Ozark Christian College writes the following,

“BAPTIZE is a violent word! It comes from a rough, tough background and has an aroma of death about it. When people of the first century heard the Greek word baptizo (bahp TEEDZ oh), they not only thought of immersion – they also thought of death! Josephus, the famous Jewish historian of the first century, provides a vivid illustration of this point. The word baptizo is found thirteen times in his writings, nearly every time in a context of destruction and death. His uses of the word include: to “sink” a ship; to “drown” an enemy; to “plunge” a sword into; and to “bring down” a city to destruction. Josephus also tells about Herod the Great, who was jealous of the growing popularity of his handsome young brother-in-law, Aristobulus. Herod lured him into a swimming pool in Jericho, and had his servants hold Aristobulus down and drown him. The word used by Josephus was baptizo (Wars 1, 437 and Antiquities 15, 55).

It was no accident, then, that the Scriptures connect Christian baptism with our death to the former life and our burial in Christ (Col. 2:12; Romans6:3–11). When we were baptized, we were sunk-drowned-killed! The former life was brought down to destruction so that God could give us new life in Christ.

Conclusion: While we go about explaining the proper form of baptism and the actual results of baptism, let us also impress on people the meaning of baptism. The picture for baptizo is the watery demise of a sinner...sinking...drowning...dead.”

From the following Scriptures, give evidence that Bible baptism means immersion:

Matthew 3:16

John 3:23

Acts 8:38–39

From the following Scriptures, what type of picture is painted of baptism (Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:12)?