

Some Questions About Baptism

Romans 6:1-7

Theme: Baptism

Aim: To give answers to often asked questions about baptism.

1. We all need to understand the action of baptism for at least two reasons. For ourselves, and to teach others.

3. I want in this lesson to give the answers to several questions I have been asked about baptism.

I. Can I be saved without being baptized?

A. My initial response to that question is to point out that question is never asked in the New Testament.

1. That question is raised due to conflicting teaching in the religious world about baptism.
2. I would speculate that none in the New Testament would have thought to ask such a question.
3. It was a natural result of preaching Jesus, Acts 8:26-29.

B. Lets answer the question by asking and answering four other questions.

1. Can one be saved without following Jesus' example? Matthew 3:15-16, John 4:1-2.
2. Without obeying Jesus' commands? Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16.
3. Without forgiveness of sins? Acts 2:38, 22:16?
4. Outside of Christ? Galatians 3:26-27, Romans 6:1-4.

II. Does that mean you believe in a water salvation?

A. It is not the water that cleanses but the blood of Jesus, Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:3-10, Revelation 1:5.

B. It is a matter of the God ordained and specified action by which we appropriate the blessing.

1. Noah found grace in God's eyes, but how did he appropriate the blessing grace provided? Genesis 6-9.
2. God's grace delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, but how did they appropriate the blessing? Exodus 1-19.
3. God cleansed Naaman the leper, but what was the God ordained and God specified action by Naaman appropriated the blessing? 2 Kings 5:10.

III. I thought salvation was a gift of grace, do you have to earn your salvation?

A. One cannot earn salvation. Nothing we can do or give is such that it can forgive sins.

1. Only the blood of Jesus can do that. Only God can forgive sins.
2. It is by grace that we are saved, Ephesians 2:8-10. But not grace alone.
3. Again this comes from a misunderstanding of the nature of baptism.

B. Baptism is not a work.

1. A work is something you do. Baptism is something done to you.
2. But as above, God has always expected man to respond to appropriate His blessings. He will not and does not force folks to obey and serve Him.

IV. I have already been baptized, do I need to be baptized again?

A. Acts 19:1-7.

1. These folks were baptized improperly.
2. They willingly were immersed a second time.

- B. This raised the issue of being baptized for the wrong reason(s).
 - 1. For example: "Baptism is the first command for the Christian."
 - 2. Or "as an outward expression of inward salvation."
 - 3. Over the years I have known several who have been baptized due to serious questions about their initial baptism.

V. What is the purpose of baptism?

- A. I am not sure there is one single purpose of baptism.

- 1. According to the Bible a number of things happen at the point of baptism.
- 2. At the point of baptism: we are saved Mark 16:15-16, Acts 22:16, we obtain remission of sins Acts 2:38, we added to the church Acts 2:47, we become children of God Galatians 3:26-27, we are buried with Him to rise to walk in newness of life Romans 6: 1-4.

- B. Leads to the final question: "How much must one know?"

- 1. Must understand something of relationship of baptism and salvation.
- 2. One cannot be taught wrong and baptized right.

- 1. Baptism is one way that the cross reaches across the centuries to touch us, in a very personal way.
- 2. What greater gift, what greater need do we have than forgiveness of sins?