

THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM

(Matt. 28:18-20)

Introduction:

1. The devil has been very successful in convincing a great number of people who claim to be God's people that His command to be baptized for the remission of sin is not required for forgiveness of sin. The arguments made against obeying the straightforward commands of our Lord are weak and childish.
2. Let us consider the Christian Doctrine of Baptism by looking at: the word itself and its uses in the Bible; the teaching regarding the remission of sin; and its connection with identification as one of God's people.

Discussion:

- I. The word and its uses.
 - A. Transliteration versus translation.
 1. A great disservice was done to the Lord and His word when translators decided to transliterate (make the Greek word "*baptidzo*" an English word "baptize") instead of translate (translate the Greek word "*baptidzo*" as "dip, or immerse") the Greek word *baptidzo*.
 2. By transliterating, in essence creating a new word, the word baptize lost much of its meaning. It is now used to describe sprinkling and pouring, which have Greek words (*rhantizo*-Heb. 10:22 and *epicheo*-Luke 10:34 respectively). Words mean things, and the concept of immersion is fundamental to Christian doctrine (Matt. 22:37; Gal. 2:20).
 - B. Its use in the New Testament.
 1. It is found in its most common meaning: to dip/immerse, in Luke 16:24.
 2. It is used to describe the agony our Lord endured (Matt. 20:22).
 3. It is used to describe the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5; 11:15-17).
 4. It is used to contrast what believers will receive from Jesus versus what unbelievers will receive (Luke 3:16; cp. Acts 2:38; 2 Thess. 1:7, 8).
 5. It is used to describe the immersion in water for the remission of sin (Luke 3:16; Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
- II. The remission of sin.
 - A. The teaching.
 1. Acts 2:38, but some say "for the remission of sin" means "because your sins have been forgiven. But Matt. 26:28 is the exact same Greek construct and cannot mean that. Also "*eis*" (Greek word translated "for") literally means "into" and in the Bible it is never translated "because of". Consider Rom. 6:3 and Gal. 3:27 with this in mind.
 2. Is. 59:1, 2 + Eph. 2:13-15 + 1 Pet. 1:18, 19 + Rom. 6:3 = Mark 16:16.
 3. Acts 22:16 clarified with the instruction of Heb. 9:14 and 1 Pet. 3:21.
 - B. Big picture = God has always provided a work of obedience to receive salvation.
 1. Noah had to build the ark in order to live.
 2. Animal sacrifices were always demanded as a means of forgiveness of sin under both the Patriarchal (Gen. 4:4, 5; Job 1:5; 42:8) and Mosaic Systems (Ex. 12:1-13; Lev. 16).
 3. Israel was commanded to craft and then go and look upon the bronze serpent to be healed of snake bite (Num. 21:4-9).
 4. Israel was required to perform 15 acts of obedience before Jericho was "given to them" (Josh. 6:2-5).
 - C. Obedience is an action, not a passive acknowledgement (Acts 5:32; Rom. 6:17; 2 Thess. 2:8, 9).
- III. The identification as God's people.
 - A. Rom. 4:11 (Gen. 17:10, 11) + Col. 2:11-13 + Acts 2:38 + Eph. 1:13, 14.
 - B. Consider Matt. 28:18-20 = a disciple of Jesus is made by being baptized and continuing to obey all that Jesus commanded. Now Consider 2 Tim. 2:19-21.
 - C. Note Rom. 1:7 + 6:1-4 + 6:17 + 16:25-27.

Conclusion:

1. The Christian Doctrine of Baptism is a simply, straightforward teaching. There may indeed be aspects of it we will never understand (such as why God chose baptism instead of something else), but that does negate the clarity of the instruction. One does not need to understand the math of gravity to obey “stay away from the cliff edge”.
2. At its heart baptism is where a person decides whether they really want/will have God as their God or not.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM

1. Hermeneutics and synecdoche/metonymy. We must read all that God has revealed to us to understand all that He has commanded.
 - James 2:10 expresses the overarching principle.
 - Noah and the ark is a good example (6:13-22).
 - Moses and the tabernacle is another good example (Ex. 39:42, 43).
 - Jesus and His commands are our test today (Matt. 28:18-20; John 8:24; Rom. 10:17; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 12:8 and Matt. 10:32; Mark 16:16; All summed up nicely in Rom. 10).
2. Salvation has always been about obedience and tied to Jesus.
 - Patriarchal and Mosaic animal sacrifices were to be obeyed as they (the sacrifices) represented Jesus to come; the Lamb of God.
 - In the Christians system we are commanded to be baptized as it (our baptism) is representative of Jesus who has come; dead, buried, and resurrected.
3. Dealing with Eph. 2:8, 9 by reading Rom. 3:19-28.
4. “What must I do?” and its Bible answer.
 - John 6:28
 - Matt. 19:16
 - Acts 2:37-47
 - Acts 16:30-34
 - Acts 22:10ff
5. What must we do today? We must be hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized (Col. 2:12), and remain faithful unto death.