

BAPTISM—SEVEN PLUS SEVEN

INTRODUCTION

A very controversial subject in the religious world today is that of “baptism.” Some believe it is necessary for salvation, and some do not. Some think it is good and connect it in some way with Christianity, but in some way with their denomination, and for other reasons than salvation. Some practice immersion and others practice “sprinkling” and **call** it “baptism.”

In this study we shall study (1) The meaning and use of the word “baptism”; (2) Seven clearly stated purposes of baptism, and (3) Sevens clearly implied results of New Testament baptism.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the MEANING AND USE OF THE WORD “BAPTISM”.

A. The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language of the day, and then translated into English later on.

1. The word “baptize” (a verb) is a word that comes from the Greek word baptizo, and is found some 75 times in the New Testament.
 - a. Vine's Greek Dictionary of New Testament Words states it “*was used among the Greeks to signify the dying of a garment, and the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another.*” (p. 50)
 - b. This word was used by the Holy Spirit to describe what we call “baptism” in the New Testament.
2. The word “baptism” (a noun) comes from the word baptisma, used 23 times in the KJV of the New Testament.
 - a. It is used literally with the element of “water” in reference to John's baptism, and Christian baptism. John 3:23; Acts 8:35-39
 - b. Then, it is used figuratively to describe being overwhelmed in suffering, and in describing the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites upon leaving Egypt. 1 Cor. 10:1-2

B. WHY do we use the word “baptism” instead of the word “immersion?”

1. In the 17th century, the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches had already begun substituting sprinkling for immersion, and **calling** it “baptism.”
 - a. Rather than create a major doctrinal issue, the scholars who were translating the KJV decided to “transliterate” the Greek words rather than to “translate” them.
 - b. So, they simply changed the ending letter “o” to an “e” in baptize and leave the definition obscure, and use it as they please.
2. However, the context and use of the word clearly shows it to mean “immersion”, as most translations now use the word “immersion.” John 3:3,5,23; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; 3:1

II. NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE SEVEN CLEARLY STATED PURPOSES OF BAPTISM.

- A. First, a purpose of baptism is **SALVATION**. Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- B. Second, a purpose of baptism is **REMISSION OF SINS**, which actually is the same thing AS “salvation.” Acts 2:38
- C. Third, a purpose of baptism is **WASHING AWAY OUR SINS**. Acts 22:16
- D. Fourth, a purpose of baptism is **MEMBERSHIP IN THE LORD'S SPIRITUAL BODY**. 1 Cor. 12:13
- E. Fifth, a purpose of baptism is being **ADDED TO THE CHURCH**. Acts 2:38, 40, 41, 47
- F. Sixth, a purpose of baptism is **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT**. Matt. 28:19
- G. Seventh, a purpose of baptism is a **UNITING WITH CHRIST**. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27

(Point out that there is only ONE baptism [Eph. 4:5], and that it is not necessary to be baptized 7 times to fulfill the purposes of baptism, ONE baptism does it all—if it is for any of these purposes. Denominational baptisms are not included in the ONE acceptable baptism.)

III. FINALLY LET'S SEE WHAT IS CLEARLY IMPLIED AT BAPTISM.

- A. First, it implied that a **SINNER BECOMES A SAINT**. 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:13
(Explain and connect the two verses).
- B. Second, it is implied that **NAMES ARE CLEARLY WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE IN HEAVEN**. Heb. 12:23 (Explain)
- C. Third, it is implied that **A SOUL HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE DEVIL**. Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1-4
- D. Fourth, it is implied that **A CHANGE OF NATURE HAS OCCURRED**.
 1. One is still a human being in a fleshly body, but he now becomes spiritually minded. Rom. 8:6
 2. One baptized can now partake of the divine nature. 2 Pet. 2:4
- E. Fifth, it is implied that in baptism **CONTACT WITH THE BLOOD SHED ON CALVARY** is made. John 19:34; Rom. 6:3; Rev. 1:5
- F. Sixth, it implied in baptism that a **FUNERAL AND A BIRTH HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THE SAME TIME**. (Explain from Rom. 6:1-4; John 3:5)
- G. Seventh, it is implied that when one is baptized there is a **CELEBRATION TAKING PLACE IN HEAVEN**. Luke 15:7

CONCLUSION

- I. With all these blessings, how can one resist being baptized and have the hope of everlasting life?
 - A. It is refreshing to know that all the past is forgiven, and a new life begins.
 - B. If the Lord and Christians are with you, what better life could you have?
- II. Exhortation.

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