

Baptism – A Matter of Fact

The Scriptures say that baptism is a commandment of God, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16) The scriptures say that baptism is being immersed in water for the remission of sins, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38) The scriptures say that baptism allows one to be buried with Christ, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12) The scriptures say that baptism saves, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (I Peter 3:21)

Folks these are statements of fact. Anyone who can read the English language can understand that these statements are present within the teachings of the New Testament. Even though this is true (that it can be read and understood as statements of fact) many continue to say, “Baptism isn’t necessary.” With the few minutes we have together this week let us discuss these statements of fact and how they prove the necessity of Baptism.

I. The Need for Baptism

- A. There are some religious denominations today that teach that baptism is not a physical action that should be performed.
 - 1. They teach that when Jesus and the Apostles mention baptism, they are speaking about a “spiritual” act, one that is not physical nor has any form of physicality.
 - 2. Do the Scriptures teach that baptism is only a “spiritual” action?
- B. We see the events recorded for us in the book of Acts in Acts 8:38:

“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

- 1. We see in this passage that Philip physically went down into the water with the eunuch and the latter was physically baptized.

- C. We see further evidence for the physical need for baptism in Acts 10:46-47:

“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”

- 1. If Peter were speaking about a “spiritual” baptism devoid of any physical understanding, why would he speak about the physical method by which one is baptized?

2. Why would water factor into the discussion at all if baptism was some “spiritual” act?
3. Further, what need would there be for any Christian to assist another in some “spiritual” act, yet we see in the Scriptures countless times that a Christian baptizes someone into Christ?

D. Therefore, we can see from the Scriptures that baptism is assuredly a physical action that takes place when one desires to become a Christian.

1. From this perspective lets look to the statements of fact we noticed in our introduction and note Baptisms necessity

II. Biblical Statements of Fact Prove Necessity

A. Baptism is a commandment (Mk 16:16)

1. Jesus’ statement in Mark 16, as we noticed, commanded baptism
2. Marks writing is paralleled in Matthew 28:18-20
3. Compare and contrast these writings
 - a. Mark 16:15-16
 - 1) Go and preach the gospel (vs 15)
 - 2) Those baptized will be saved (vs 16)
 - b. Matthew 28:18-20
 - 1) Christ had authority to command such (vs 18)
 - 2) Go and teach all nations (vs 19)
 - 3) Baptizing (vs 19)
4. It is this command that the apostles of Christ carry out (cp Acts 2:38)

B. Baptism is being immersed in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

1. As we just noticed Peter was just obeying the command of Christ but Peter was not the only one to teach water baptism for the removal of sin
 - a. Paul was thus instructed by Ananias (Acts 22:16)
 - b. Paul taught this in his epistles (Rom 6:1-6; Col 2:11-13)
 - 1) This obviously proves one of our other statements of fact
 - 2) Baptism allows one to be buried with Christ (cp Rom 6:3-4)

C. Baptism saves (I Peter 3:20-21)

1. Peter comparing the salvation of Noah and his family makes this statement of fact about baptism
 - a. Eight souls saved “by water” (vs 20)
 - b. “Baptism doth also now save us” (vs 21)
 - c. Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible says of this verse “The meaning here is, that baptism corresponded to, or had a resemblance to, the water by which Noah was saved; or that there was a use of water in the one case which corresponded in some respects to the water that was used in the other; to wit, in effecting salvation.”
 - d. Salvation – “In the New Testament it is specially used with reference to the great deliverance from the guilt and the pollution

of sin wrought out by Jesus Christ, “the great salvation” (Heb 2:3, Easton’s Bible Dictionary)

Conclusion: As with any statement of fact it is settled and firm. To change any part of the truth of these statements is to turn them into a lie. The beauty of these statements is that in the obedience to them we have God’s mercy – the forgiveness of sins!