

NEW TESTAMENT BAPTISM

“The Views of Baptism”

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9/8/10)



Introduction: Perhaps no subject is more misunderstood in the religious world than the subject of baptism. It is practiced in some form by almost every group claiming to be a part of “Christianity.” However, the vast majority of these religious groups see baptism as unnecessary for salvation. Let me share with you some various viewpoints on this practice through the literature of many of our denominational friends.

Discussion:

I. The Baptist View of Baptism (*The Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual*, Edward T. Hiscox)

“an immersion in water, performed as a sign of the removal of sin” (p. 83)

“Baptism may not be essential to salvation, but it is essential to obedience....Baptism, therefore, is an act of obedience...but it possesses no power in itself to remit sin, to change the heart, or to sanctify the spirit.” (pg. 83-84)

II. The Presbyterian View of Baptism (*The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church*)

“Although it be a great sin to contemn or neglect this ordinance [baptism], yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated or saved without it....” (pg. 123-124)

“The efficacy of baptism is not tied to that moment when it is administered....” (p. 124)

III. The Nazarene View of Baptism (*The Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene*)

“Believing that God has given you forgiveness of sins, and spiritual life through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour, and that you are thus graciously prepared to receive Christian baptism, as declarative of your saving faith and covenant of obedience, you will now give avowals of your belief and purpose.” (on the “The Sacrament of Baptism,” p. 215)

“Baptism is the external seal of the new covenant of grace.” (on the “The Baptism of Infants,” p. 216)

IV. The Methodist/Episcopal View of Baptism (*The Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1910*)

“Then shall the minister take each person to be baptized by the right hand; and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name; and then shall sprinkle or pour water upon him (or, if he shall desire it, immerse him in water), saying: I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (p. 369)

V. Various Independent Views of Baptism

“It is not the physical act of baptism that saves you....Our salvation is by faith alone, through Christ alone.” (“My Answer,” newspaper column by Billy Graham)

“Baptism is a figure, a symbol, a picture of salvation. It does not save. It declares salvation....For if you put baptism in the plan of salvation you minimize the cross and salvation by grace....” (*False Doctrines Answered*, by John R. Rice, p. 99, 101)

“Now, I will say, once for all, that all of the external rites and ordinances of the Church, in all ages, have only been *signs* or *pictures* of an inward, invisible grace....There is nothing in any or all of them that can cleanse a soul from sin. That must be done by the power of God’s grace alone.” (*Bible Tools for Busy People*, by John H. Nichols, p. 132)

“The Holy Ghost “shed forth” on the soul cleanses it from all sin, and takes it into spiritual relation to Christ; and “clean water” shed forth on the body in baptism takes us into visible relation to Christ, or into the visible Church.” (*Bible Tools for Busy People*, by John H. Nichols, p. 132)

“Baptism, then, is the outward expression of an inward salvation. Baptism follows salvation. Baptism is essential to obedience but not to salvation.” (*The Truth About the Church of Christ*, “Please Drown Me in the Baptistry!” by Hugh F. Pyle, p. 39)

VI. The Biblical View of Baptism

A. Scripture References

Baptism = Matthew 3:7, 20:22, 20:23, 21:25, Mark 1:4, 10:38-39, 11:30, Luke 3:3, 7:29, 12:50, 20:4, Acts 1:22, 10:37, 13:24, 18:25, 19:3-4, Romans 6:4, Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:21

Baptisms = Hebrews 6:2

Baptize = Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:25-26, 1:33, 4:2, I Corinthians 1:17

Baptized = Matthew 3:6, 3:13-14, 3:16, 20:22-23, Mark 1:5, 1:8-9, 10:38-39, 16:16, Luke 3:7, 3:12, 3:21, 7:29-30, 12:50, John 3:22-23, Acts 1:5, 2:38, 2:41, 8:12-13, 8:16, 8:36, 8:38, 9:18, 10:47-48, 11:16, 16:15, 16:33, 18:8, 19:3-5, 22:16, Romans 6:3, I Corinthians 1:13-16, 10:2, 12:13, 15:29, Galatians 3:27

Baptizes = John 1:33

Baptizing = Matthew 28:19, Mark 1:4, John 1:28, 1:31, 3:23, 3:26, 10:40

B. Examples of Baptism

Jesus = Matthew 3:7

Jews on Pentecost = Acts 2:38, 2:41

Samaritans = Acts 8:12-13, 8:16

Ethiopian Eunuch = Acts 8:36, 8:38

Saul of Tarsus = Acts 9:18, 22:16

Cornelius & His Guests = Acts 10:47-48, 11:16

Lydia & Her Household = Acts 16:15

Philippian Jailer & His Household = Acts 16:33

Corinthians = Acts 18:8

Ephesians = Acts 19:3-5

C. Related Examples

The Consecration of Aaron & His Sons = Leviticus 8:6

The Cleansing of Naaman = II Kings 5:10, 14

The Uncleanliness of Israel = Ezekiel 16:4, 9

The Dialogue with Nicodemus = John 3:1-21

Scriptures About Being Washed & Cleansed = I Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 10:22, Revelation 1:5

Conclusion: What can we learn from these conclusions? Man's opinion about this matter makes no difference. The critical question that must be asked is, "What does the Bible say about the subject?" Since the New Testament contains different forms of the word "baptism" (nearly 80 times), we need to consult it for guidance. How can we prevent a departure from the truth on baptism in the church of Christ? We need to open our Bibles and study about New Testament baptism. It is my prayer that through this series, we will learn more about this great biblical practice.