
BIBLE BAPTISM

We read in Ephesians 4:5 that there is "One Lord, one faith, and one baptism." The purpose of this tract is to clearly set forth the Bible teaching as to what the ONE form of scriptural baptism is, instead of the opinion or tradition of any man or church.

We first invite the reader's attention to the meaning of the word "baptize," taken as it is from the Greek word "baptizo," which means to plunge, or to dip. The one who baptized with Bible baptism must plunge or dip the candidate. This, we will explain, was the practice of the early church, and the teaching of the apostles.

Belief and repentance precede baptism, as is found in Acts 2:38, also 18:8; Mark 16:16, and Acts 22:16. Therefore, little babies receive no divine benefit from baptism, for they have never sinned, and, furthermore, they cannot repent or believe in Jesus. Infant baptism has no place in the Bible, and is only a practice handed down to us from the dark ages, when the Bibles were burned. It is one of the traditions of men.

Jesus first gave us the example of baptism, about which it is said, "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water." (Matthew 3:16) He was our example, whose steps we are to follow, in order to be saved and have everlasting life.

John was baptizing in Aenon, because there was much water there.—John 3:23.

The Holy Spirit directed Philip to the desert of Gaza,

where he found a man sitting in a chariot, and he preached to him Christ. As they rode along and came to a certain water, the eunuch said to Philip, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" "He commanded the chariot to stand still, and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." The Holy Spirit, and it required both of them to go down (Acts 8:26 to 39) This baptism was especially directed by into the water, just as when Jesus was baptized.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told the apostles to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16) Jesus gave us an example of what baptism was, and how the act was performed, and if anyone simply has water sprinkled on their heads, or even poured on them, they are not baptized. We prayerfully ask such ones to follow the instruction of Jesus, and repent, be baptized, and enter into divine relationship with God; for you have never done so yet, and living in this age of light and education, God will surely hold you accountable at the judgment day.

The ordinance of baptism is a likeness of the burial and resurrection of Christ. He died and was buried, but arose again from the grave; and so it is with the one who is baptized, he dies to the sins of the world, is buried and resurrected to walk in newness of life. He goes down in the watery grave, and is resurrected from it just as Jesus was when he set the example of Bible baptism, and later went into the literal grave and also rose again.

The Lord tells us plainly the significance of baptism in the following Scripture: "Know ye not, that so many of us

as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."—Romans 6:3 to 5.

In the watery grave is where we meet Jesus and the old carnal man of sin is destroyed and put off, and where we put on the new nature, having had a change of heart. If you have only been sprinkled, or something else besides "baptism", you are not in a saved condition, and have never experienced the joy that is yours to receive. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Verse 6.

Note Col. 3:1 to 5, and through daily prayer set your affections on things of God, by seeking Him for every beautiful attribute that so abounded in Jesus, and God will give them to you.

No person can furnish one Scripture that says anything about sprinkling or pouring as a baptismal rite, or a single account given of anyone being received into Jesus Christ through the ordinance of sprinkling, or one Scripture where a baby was ever baptized.

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