

BAPTISM DEFINED

7/3/2022 AM

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Baptism is an important subject.**
 - 1. Jesus spoke concerning it.
 - 2. He commanded that it be done (**Mark 16:15-16**).
- B. Our question deals with the method.**
- C. In this study we will look at four things.**
 - 1. The Law of Exclusion.
 - 2. Defining baptism.
 - 3. Statements from early religious leaders.
 - 4. Proper applications of the word.

DISCUSSION: FROM OUR STUDY LET US OBSERVE...

I. THE LAW OF EXCLUSION.

- A. What is this law? How does it affect us today?**
- B. Some examples.**
 - 1. **2 Kings 5:10-12** Jordan River excluded the rivers in Damascus.
 - 2. **Luke 24:49** Jerusalem excluded any other city.
 - 3. **Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23** One body excludes more than one.

II. THE MEANING OF THE WORD BAPTIZE.

- A. Three methods used to accomplish baptism (Sprinkling, Pouring and Immersion).**
 - 1. Sprinkling: (*rhantizo*) To sprinkle, To render bespeckled.
 - 1) **Hebrews 9:21.**
 - 2) **Hebrews 11:28.**
 - 2. Pouring: (*katacheo*) To pour down upon, to tip a container.
 - 1) **Matthew 26:12.**
 - 2) **Mark 14:3.**
 - 3. Immersion: (*baptizo*) To immerse, submerge, enclose.
 - 1) **Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21.**
 - 2) The Old Testament word *tabal* is the New Testament word *baptizo* (**2 Kings 5:14**).
- B. Question: Are these three words different one from the other and did God use the word He intended to use?**

III. STATEMENTS FROM EARLY RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

- A. Bishop Lightfoot (1828-1889) Anglican Church: “Baptism is the grave of the old man and the birth of the new. As he sinks beneath the baptismal waters, the believer buries there all his corrupt affections and past sins...”**
- B. John Wesley (1703-1791) Founder of the Methodist Church: “We are buried with Him... Alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.”**
- C. August Tholuck (1799-1877) German Protestant: “... in the early days of the church, persons when baptized were first plunged below and then raised above the water.”**
- D. John Brenner Catholic Scholar: “For thirteen hundred years was baptism an immersion of the person under water.”**
- E. The method of Baptism:**
 - 1. In the eighth century **Pope Stephen** allowed the mere pouring of water as an act of baptism in the case of necessity. And as late as the 14th century the Roman Catholic Church, at the Council of Revena, legalized sprinkling as a substitution

for immersion. Others were influenced by the convenience of this method and opted for the compromise.

2. **John Brenner**, a leading Catholic scholar, admitted, “For thirteen hundred years was baptism and immersion of the person under water.” **John Wesley**, founder of Methodism: “Buried with him by baptism—alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.” **Martin Luther** founder of Lutheranism taught: “Baptism is a Greek word, and may be translated, immerse. I would have those who are to be baptized to be altogether dipped.” And **John Calvin**, the father of Presbyterianism, wrote: “The word “baptize” signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the primitive church.”

IV. PROPER APPLICATION OF THE WORD.

A. What does it mean to bury?

1. **Romans 6:1-6.**
2. **Colossians 2:12.**

B. Does immersion include sprinkling or pouring?

1. Why would immersion NOT include the others?
2. The Lord used the exact word which He intended to use.

C. Proper baptism requires proper knowledge. (Cannot be taught wrong and baptized right.)

1. **Acts 8:5** (Phillip preached Christ unto them.)
2. What did he preach? (**Acts 8:12**) “They believed...”
 - 1) The kingdom. (The kingdom is the church. How many? **ONE**.)
 - 2) The name of Jesus Christ. (**Acts 2:38** “In the name of Jesus Christ.” By His authority!
 - 3) They were immersed. Obeyed the gospel (**Mark 16:16**).
3. Then they were added to the church (**Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13**).

V. CONCLUSION:

A. Some make the mistake of saying that people are baptized because they are already saved.

1. **Acts 2:38** is mistranslated by those who seek to discredit the necessity of baptism as... “Repent and be baptized everyone of you because you have already been cleansed of your sins.”
2. That would be like saying “My mother washed the clothes because they are already clean.”
3. Note **Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21**.

B. Established a plan for salvation and that plan included immersion (ONLY) for to bring about cleansing of the soul.