

“I WONDER WHAT IS THE TRUE PLACE OF BAPTISM IN GOD’S PLAN”

Many years ago I heard the real reason fire trucks are red. Listen carefully. *“Because they have eight wheels and four people on them. And four plus eight is twelve, and there are twelve inches in a foot, and one foot is ruler, and Queen Elizabeth was a ruler, and Queen Elizabeth is also a ship, and the ship sailed the seas, and in the seas are fish, and fish have fins, and the Finns fought the Russians, and the Russians are red, and fire trucks are always “russian” around, that’s why fire trucks are red.”*

This is not comedy hour, this is worship time. I just used this to illustrate a point I wish to make this morning. Someone wonders, *“Where does water baptism really stand in God’s plan?”*

Because it seems so plain in the Bible with a multitude of references and lots of examples, I believe we only need to ask because of other tributaries that have been running into the Bible pool over the years.

The questions usually center in three subtopics: 1)What is the right way to baptise? 2)Who are the proper subject? And 3)What are the reasons for being baptized in water?

I. BIBLE BAPTISM IS AN IMMERSION IN WATER

- a. The Word Itself- *baptisma/noun and baptizo/verb=transliteration.*
- b. The Setting- **John 3:23; Acts 8:38,39**
- c. The Examples-

II. THE PROPER SUBJECT ARE ADULTS:

- a. Who have heard the gospel
- b. Who believe this good news
- c. Who are willing to repent to repent of sins
- d. Who desire to be part of the church

III. THE REASONS FOR BAPTISM ARE:

- a. To be saved from sin or forgiven or redeemed-**Mk. 16:15,16; I Pet. 3:21**
- b. To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit- **Acts 2:38**
- c. To become children of God- **Gal. 3:26,27**
- d. To get into Christ where all spiritual blessings dwell
 - i. Simply Put: One is either **IN** or **OUT OF** Christ. If "in Christ":
 1. Rom.8:1
 2. II Cor.5:17
 3. II Tim.2:10
 4. Eph.1:3,7
 - ii. Only two passages show how this happens- Rom 6/Gal.3
 - iii. Anything about *“praying into Christ,”* or *“believing into Christ”* are like red fire trucks.
 - iv. It seems to be so much easier to believe words that are wrong than to believe the Bible
 - v. **ILLUST:** Why Not Just Believe God?
 - vi. It is much less confusing to just say what the Bible says!

CONCLUSION:

There is really no good reason for us to not be knowledgeable about every aspect of water baptism; what is it, what it is for, and who should be baptized. The Bible is so very clear on this subject. Some, while trying to hold on to what someone or some church tradition taught them, fight what the Bible says, but there is really no excuse to not know. We should know this subject by heart, including Scripture references.

ILLUSTRATIONS USED IN THIS LESSON

Why Not Just Believe God? It has always seemed easier to believe other things instead of the Bible.

Reason 1: Traditions that we keep. Such things as quoting other people or uninspired books to make our case instead of the Bible.

Reason 2: Perceived Loss to be suffered. *“My grandfather was a good man and he was never baptized. If good enough for him, so for me.”*

Reason 3: Dwelling in minors. (Matt. 23:23) There were “weightier matters of the law,” and these people spend their time and made their arguments from the minor things

So when someone says *“I prefer to just accept Christ as my personal Saviour,”* ask him where that is in the Bible. If he continues with *“Every good Christian should obey Jesus in being baptized,”* ask, *“Where is that found.”*

CLASS DISCUSSION

WE KNOW OF THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF BAPTISM

- A. Because it Is Linked To the Resurrection of Jesus
 - 1. I Pet.3:21
 - 2. I Pet 3:18
- B. Because it Is a Response To The Gospel
 - 1. Mark 16:15,16
 - 2. Acts 2:22-24,37,38
- C. Because It Is A Time To Trust In God the Doctor
 - 1. Col.2:10-12
 - 2. This requires some knowledge
- D. Because Baptism Alone Re-enacts The Cross Event
 - 1. I Cor.15:1-4
 - 2. Rom.6:3-6

CONCLUSION: To be baptized requires physical action...but this must be accompanied by mental activity

for it be Bible baptism. For one to participate in Bible baptism:

- 1) He/she must come to know about sin
- 2) God's desire to save from sin
- 3) Jesus is the sin-offering
- 4) When he/she truly believes in Jesus and trusts in God to make all things new-- then that person is recognizing the spiritual nature of the physical act.