God's Dividing Line: Water

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 28th, 2019

Text: Mk. 16:16

# Intro

1. A dividing line is something that separates between two or more things:
   1. History is rife with people “drawing a line in the sand” – 2 of the more famous:
      1. In 168 BC, an old Roman Consul named Gaius Popillius Laenas drew a circular line in the sand around King Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) of the Seleucid Empire, then said, “Before you cross this circle I want you to give me a reply for the Roman Senate” – implying that Rome would declare war if the King stepped out of the circle without committing to leave Egypt immediately. Weighing his options, Antiochus wisely decided to withdraw. Only then did Popillius agree to shake hands with him.
      2. March 3–5, 1836 after receiving Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna’s letter demanding full surrender, according to legend Col. Travis explained to the defenders of the Alamo that defeat was almost certain, and read the letter of surrender; Travis then reportedly pulled his battle sword & used it to draw a line in the sand, and asked for volunteers to cross over the line and join him (legend states that all but one of the defenders, Moses Rose, joined Travis on his side of the line).
   2. Many rivers are dividing lines:
      1. The Niagara River is a dividing line between the USA and Canada (NY & Ontario).
      2. The Mississippi River is the dividing line between many states.
      3. Oceans and seas are dividing lines between nations (countries).
2. Water – Many teach that water does not have a part in God’s redemptive plan!
   1. Physically has been and still is used as a dividing line today!
   2. Religiously has been the dividing line many times and still is today!
3. Many people will be divided *from* God by water, while water also unites people *with* God!

# Noah

1. Gen. 6: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8).
   1. The old world was in bad (and sad) condition – sin reigned everywhere! (6:5-7)
   2. God gave directions to Noah to build an ark – for a flood would destroy the world! (6:17)
2. Heb. 11:7 (Gen. 6:22): By faith Noah was “moved with godly fear” (NKJ) to do all that God commanded!
   1. Noah’s obedient faith saved him and his family!
3. Water was the dividing line between salvation and the wrath of God!
   1. I Pet. 3:20-21: The flood saved Noah from the sin of the old world, which was condemned because of their disobedience (Gen. 6:5, 13)
4. **Today**
   1. Saints, by obedience, die to sin & are buried with Christ & raised up to walk in newness of life in the kingdom of God’s beloved Son (Rom. 6:3-7; Col. 1:13; I Pet. 3:21) and are rescued from the wrath of God (Rom. 5:9)!
5. Obediently crossing the dividing line of water rescues the godly from the wrath of God!

### Naaman

* 1. II Kings 5: Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean” (II Kings 5:10)
     1. Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army, the enemy of Israel, but was a leper.
     2. Leprosy is a terrible disease that destroys the flesh as it decays and falls off the bones.
     3. He was sent to Elisha the prophet of God and was commanded to dip in the Jordan River seven times in order to be cleansed! He was initially furious and was ready to leave!
  2. Water was the dividing line between a miraculous cure and remaining a leper (lethal disease)!
     1. II Kings 5:14: When he obeyed (right river, right number of times), he was healed!
  3. **Today**
     1. Water is the dividing line between God & sin (children of Satan & the children of God)!
     2. Sin is like leprosy; both have no cure!
     3. Obedience to the gospel cleanses (forgives) us of sin and we rise a new creature in Christ! (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:9-10).
  4. Obediently crossing the dividing line of water cleanses man from the lost state of sin!

# The Blind Man

* + - 1. *Jn. 9:1-12:* “He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see” (Jn. 9:25).
         1. The account of the man born blind receiving his sight! (9:32)
         2. He received his sight, not when he received the clay mixture on his eyes, but when he went and washed in the Pool of Siloam as Jesus commanded him! (9:7)
      2. Water was the dividing line between sight and remaining blind! *(Darkness and light!)*
         1. Jn. 9:7: When the man obeyed he received his sight!
      3. **Today**
         1. We were once groping in darkness, but are now children of light when we respond to and obey the gospel of Christ! (Eph. 5:8-11).
         2. Water is the dividing line between darkness and light! (Jn. 3:19; 8:12)
         3. Obedience to the gospel puts one in the light, out of the darkness of the world (I Pet. 2:9).
      4. Obediently crossing the dividing line of water grants light to those dwelling in darkness!

# Every Sinner

1. Mk. 16:16: “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”
   * + - 1. To be saved, all men need to cross the dividing line of water from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God’s Son into marvelous light (Col. 1:13; I Pet. 2:9).
2. It wasn’t the water that cured Naaman or the blind man but their obedience!
   * + - 1. *Washing in any other body of water than what God said wouldn’t have done it!*
3. Water is the dividing line between being a child of God and remaining a child of Satan!
4. **Today** (the waters of baptism serve as a dividing line between the saved and lost!)
5. Eph. 1:7: The blood of Christ forgives us our sins – **How?**
6. By obedience to the gospel! – Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27
7. Obedience to the gospel requires one to **hear** (Rom. 10:17), **believe** (Heb. 11:6), **repent** (Acts 2:38), **confess Christ** (Acts 8:37), and **be baptized** (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16).
8. Obediently crossing the dividing line of water saves one’s soul from an eternity in Hell!

# Conclusion

1. Many people teach that baptism isn’t important, that it does not save us from our sins.
   1. Many preachers will say it is not necessary for salvation.
   2. However, most of them (if not all) will point out that Noah had to use gopher wood to build the ark, that Naaman had to dip in the Jordan, and the blind man had to wash in the Pool of Siloam, so why is the mode of salvation given by Christ any different today?
2. God’s word shows water has been used as a dividing line before, and it is still used by God in much the same way today! One must cross the watery dividing line in obedience to God’s word to be saved!
3. Mt. 11:28-30: Jesus offers His personal invitation to come to Him, if one would only come to Him in His way! (Mt. 11:29: “Learn from Me;” Mk. 16:16)
4. Baptism is God’s dividing line between being saved and remaining lost – Have you crossed over?
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to cross over the dividing line! Believe, repent, be baptized, and live!
6. If a Christian struggling with sin in your life, repent and God will forgive you!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!