**Baptism Part 1: What It Does And Does Not Do**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 14th, 2019

Text: Gal. 3:26-27

### Intro

1. God’s offer of salvation and eternal life: Repent and be baptized! (Mk. 16:15-16)
2. Baptism is one subject that has been much abused by those in the denominational world:
   1. Called “an outward appearance of an inward grace” (though not found in N.T.)
   2. Called “a work” thus non-essential to salvation of one’s soul. (A misapplication of Eph. 2:8-9. Compare with Js. 2:14-26 and see that it is an act of faith, not a work of law)
   3. Called by some “optional” while others claim it is “mandatory” as it is a command of the Lord, but it is only necessary *after* one is saved by prayer. (Never in the Scriptures do we read of a before-conversion sinner being told to pray for salvation)
3. It is a direct command from Jesus Himself, and His apostles and N.T. writers wrote about it often enough that there are plenty of examples recorded for us.
   1. Since it is a requirement for salvation it must be clearly understood!
4. We need to know the purpose and limitations of baptism: What it does and does not do!

#### What Baptism Does

* 1. It puts one into Christ
     1. I Cor. 12:13: “All baptized into one body.” (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23: Christ’s body is the church!)
     2. Gal. 3:26-27: Those baptized *into* Christ have clothed themselves *with* Christ!
  2. It washes away all of our sins
     1. Eph. 1:7: Christ’s blood forgives sin, how? Through baptism!
     2. Acts 2:38: Repent, be baptized in name of Christ for forgiveness of sins!
     3. Acts 22:16: Be baptized, wash away sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
  3. It saves us
     1. Mk. 16:16: Belief, Baptism, Saved.
        1. Catholics – Baptism, Belief, Salvation
        2. Baptists and many other denominations – Belief, Salvation, Baptism
     2. I Pet. 3:21: “Baptism now saves us.”
        1. “By the resurrection of Christ” (Rom. 6:3-4: Baptism symbolizes Christ’s death, burial, and His resurrection; “newness of life”)
  4. It puts us into God’s kingdom
     1. Jn. 3:5: Baptism (born of water and the Spirit) allows one to enter the kingdom
     2. Col. 1:13-14: “Transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” and forgiveness of sins is through His blood *(Eph. 1:7; Acts 2:38; 22:16).*
  5. Baptism (obedience) changes our relationship to God and washes away our sins!

#### What Baptism Does Not Do

* 1. It does not make a minor an adult (change immaturity into maturity)
     1. Acts 2:38: The purpose is *“for the forgiveness of sins.”*
     2. If a young boy or girl obeys the gospel we rejoice with them for they are forgiven and made a child of God, not an adult!
        1. Laws of the land today say 18 years old makes an adult.
        2. Under Law of Moses it was 20 years old for the Jews (Ex. 30:14; Num. 26:2)
        3. A child does not become a man or a woman because they were baptized!
     3. Sometimes when a young boy is baptized there are some who are concerned that a woman may no longer teach them without violating I Tim. 2:11-12.
        1. Man: *Gr. aner (G435):* a man (properly as an individual male): fellow, husband, man, sir.
        2. Thayer: “with reference to sex, so as to distinguish a man from a woman. With reference to age, to distinguish an adult man from a boy.”
        3. Woman: *Gr. gune (G1135):* a woman; specifically a wife: wife, woman.
        4. I Tim. 2:13-14: Speaks of “child-bearing.” Not a child, but an adult.
     4. We know the difference between an infant, child, and an adult (man and woman), so then we can understand Paul forbidding a woman usurping authority over a man, not a boy!
        1. Lk. 2:42-43; Jesus at 12 years old was called a “child” (KJV), “boy” (NASB/NKJV) – *Gr. pais [paheece] (G3816): a child, boy or girl.*
     5. Baptism forgives us of sin (Acts 2:38), puts us in the right relationship with God and gives us life (Rom. 6:3-4). It does not change the maturity of anyone!
  2. It does not affirm feelings
     1. It does not change one’s gender based on their feelings (or even surgery)
        1. In December 2018 the Church of England issued pastoral guidance that “advises clergy to refer to transgender people by their new name” in a newly-announced baptism-style ceremony for transgender people to be welcomed into the Anglican faith *(“Church of England to offer baptism-style services to transgender people to celebrate their new identity for first time,” Helena Horton, The Telegraph, Dec, 11, 2018;* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/11/church-england-offer-baptism-style-services-transgender-people/>*).*
        2. Men & women, alike, were being baptized – Acts 8:12 (their gender did not change at baptism!)
     2. It is not a welcoming ceremony! (into any religious name)
        1. This new, celebratory service is called the “Affirmation of Baptismal Faith,” at which the person may be “presented with gifts such as a Bible inscribed in their chosen name, or a certificate” (Ibid). “The guidance notes: “For a trans person to be addressed liturgically by the minister for the first time by their chosen name may be a powerful moment in the service.”
        2. It is a new birth – John 3:3-7; Rom. 6:4
     3. Baptism doesn’t affirm feelings, change genders, or ceremonially affirm faith!
  3. It does not remove temptation
     1. Jesus was tempted immediately after His baptism – *Matthew 3-4*
     2. II Tim. 3:12: Those that will live godly will be persecuted.
     3. I Cor. 10:13: We won’t be tempted beyond what we are able to endure.
     4. We must endure temptation to be approved by God! (James 1:12)
  4. It does not make one sinless (guarantee sinless perfection)
     1. I Jn. 1:9-10: We will all still sin and slip up. We need to repent when we fall.
     2. I Jn. 3:9-10: As a child of God we will “not practice” sin or unrighteousness.
     3. Simon, a baptized believer sinned and needed to repent *(Acts 8:13-24).*
     4. Peter committed public sin of hypocrisy and needed to repent – Gal. 2:11-12
     5. The Corinthians, Galatians, and the churches in Asia still needed to repent!
     6. Baptism washes away our sins but does not make us sinless forever!
  5. It does not guarantee eternal salvation
     1. Many believe it does! Baptism is their “ticket to heaven!”
     2. Eternal salvation is given to those who obey Him – Heb. 5:9
     3. Baptism is not the end of obedience – Phil. 1:27; 2:12: Must continually obey
     4. One must be steadfast in worship and service to God – I Cor. 15:58; Acts 2:42; John 8:31
     5. Baptism is the beginning of our walk with God (Rom. 6:4) – Col. 3:1-2; Mt. 6:33
  6. Baptism results in eternal life IF one is faithful till death (Rev. 2:10), not through baptism only!

## Conclusion

1. Baptism puts one into Christ but in and of itself, does NOT guarantee eternal salvation!
2. Jesus said people with no firm root of faith can fall away – Mt. 13:18-23
3. Heb. 2:1: After baptism we need to be careful in study so that we “do not drift away.”
4. There are things baptism does and does not do: We need to be baptized and understand it is only the beginning of our walk with God in the right relationship!
5. If you aren’t baptized, you need to realize you cannot be saved without it!
6. If you are baptized into Christ, you need to realize that you must continue to be faithful!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!