

BAPTISM (THE 5TH STEP IN THE PLAN OF SALVATION)

Jesus wanted his followers to spread the Gospel message. He wanted people taught the basics of the gospel. After acceptance of the message, he wanted them to be baptized. After being baptized, he wanted them to be taught more perfectly the word of God.

ASSUMPTION?

No! The following passages clearly reveal God's plan for making disciples. It also clearly reveals the condition of those who refuse the Gospel message.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The process of Teaching and Baptizing is to continue until the end of the world (ages).

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

A.) WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To Obey a Command of the Lord

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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2. To be Saved

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1. We can "hoop and holler" and try to get around it but at the end of the day (and the end of the world) the passage still says that "baptism doth also now save us." As Noah was separated from a sinful world by water, we are separated from a sinful life when we are baptized.

3. To Obey the "form" of the Gospel

Romans 6:17

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:3-4

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 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.

4. To Obtain Remission of Sins

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

5. To have my sins washed away

Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

6. To get into Christ

Galatians 3:26-27

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- THERE IS NO MEANS OF GETTING INTO CHRIST, OTHER THAN BAPTISM, REVEALED IN SCRIPTURES.

B.) Who Should Be Baptized?

a) Those who have been taught God's Word and believes it.

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19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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C.) What is the Nature of Baptism?

Baptism comes from the Greek word baptize. According to Thayer it means to "dip, plunge, immerse, submerge". What is the meaning of the Word translated

- According to the Bible it is a burial

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

- In Water

Acts 8:35-38

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

According to the Bible the requirements for a scriptural baptism are:

1. Water (Acts 8:36)
2. Much Water (John 3:23)
3. Going down into the water (Acts 8:36-38)
4. A burial in water (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12)
5. Coming up out of the water (Acts 8:38)

Will you submit to God's ordinance and command of baptism?