

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thousands of Books, Debates, Sermons Have Been Preached On This Subject.
2. In the Final Analysis We are Concerned With What the Bible Teaches.

I. THE BAPTISM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS FOR THE JEWS ONLY.

1. Matt. 3:1-6: "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.' And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins."
2. This Baptism Was Not Valid After The Cross And Pentecost.
 - A. Paul Re-baptized Twelve Who Had Been Baptized Previously by John's Baptism.
 - (1) Acts 19:1-7: "And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples, he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.' Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them: and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all."

3. **Some Maintain That The Thief On The Cross Was Saved Without Baptism.**

A. The Bible Does Not Teach That The Thief Was Not Baptized by John's Baptism.

B. The Bible Does Not Specifically Say That The Thief Was Saved.

(1) However, I believe that we can infer that that is what Jesus meant.

C. Jesus Had Power While Still On Earth, Before The Cross, To Forgive Sin.

(1) Luke 5:23-24: "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins,-- (He said to the man who was paralyzed), I say to you, 'Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.'"

a. Heb. 9:16-17: "For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives."

II. **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS PROMISED AND NEVER COMMANDED.**

1. John 14:26; 16:12-13: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you ... I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

A. There Were Three Purposes For The Holy Spirit's Being Given.

(1) To Guide Them In All Truth.

(2) To Bring To Their Remembrance The Teachings Of Jesus For Three Years.

(3) To Show Them Coming Events.

2. There Are Only Two Cases of Holy Spirit Baptism In The Entire Bible.
 - A. The Apostles On Pentecost. (Acts 2:4)
 - B. Household Of Cornelius. (Acts 10 and 11)
 - (1) This was a completion of Joel's prophecy that Spirit Poured Out On All Flesh - Both Jew and Gentile.
 - (2) The Spirit also was Guiding Peter Into All Truth to Preach to Gentiles.

3. The Apostle Paul In Ephesians 4: Said That There Was Only ONE Baptism About A.D. 64.
 - A. Holy Spirit Baptism Was Accompanied By Sound of Wind, Tongues of Fire.
 - (1) There was something you could Hear, See, and Other Languages Spoken.
 - B. Water Baptism Was To Last Unto The End Of The World. (Matt. 28:18-20)

III. THE BAPTISM OF THE GREAT COMMISSION WAS FOR SALVATION FROM SIN.

1. Jesus Gave The Command To Go, Teach, and Baptize.
 - A. Matt. 28:18-20: "Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Amen.
 - B. Mark 16:15-16: "And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

2. In Every Case Of Conversion In The New Testament The Command to Baptize Was Carried Out.
 - A. Acts 2:1-47: The Three Thousand on the Day of Pentecost.

- B. Acts 8:1-12: The Samaritans under Philip's preaching.
 - C. Acts 8:26-40: The Eunuch from Ethiopia taught and baptized by Philip.
 - D. Acts 9:1-18: Saul of Tarsus - Later The Apostle Paul.
 - E. Acts 10:1-48: Conversion of Cornelius and his household.
 - F. Acts 16:13-15: Lydia and her household - the beginning of the church in Philippi.
 - G. Acts 16:16-34: The conversion of the Jailor by Paul and Silas.
 - H. Acts 18:8: The Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized.
3. There Are Many Scriptures Which Teach That Water Baptism Is Essential To One's Salvation.
- A. Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; "
 - B. Acts 22:16: "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
 - C. I Peter 3:20-21: "when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
 - D. Gal. 3:26-27: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 - E. I Cor. 12:13: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, --whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."
 - F. Romans 6:3-4: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism

into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

NOTE: The Blood of Christ Saves From Sin. He shed His blood in His death. Baptism puts us into His death and therefore in contact with the precious blood of Christ.

- G. John 3:3-5: "Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

NOTE: A birth does not give life. It merely transplants life from one environment to another. Baptism, the spiritual birth, does the same. It transplants the sinner from the world into the church.

4. The Baptism Of The Great Commission Was By Immersion Only.

- A. Three Words: Rantidzo - To Sprinkle In Drops.
Cheo - To Pour Out In A Stream.
Baptidzo - Meaning To Dip, plunge, immerse. (This is used for Baptism.)
- B. New Testament Examples Confirm That Baptism Was By Immersion.
- (1) John, The Baptist - "Baptism in Jordan because was much water there."
 - (2) Jesus - "When he came up out of the water."
 - (3) Ethiopian Eunuch - "Went down into the water both Philip and the Eunuch."
 - (4) Romans 6:1-18 - Teaches that Baptism is a burial and a planting.

IV. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A BAPTISM OF FIRE.

1. Matt. 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He who is coming after Me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
2. Rev. 20:10: "And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
3. II Thess. 1:7-9: "And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

NOTE: Is Baptism a Part of the Gospel?
Yes, It is Part of the Gospel.
Those obeying not the Gospel are going to be burned.

**V. BAPTISM IN WATER IS FOR SALVATION FROM SINS:
BAPTISM IN FIRE IS FOR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.**

1. The Scriptures are plain. Mankind has made the water muddy, not God.
2. People need to be willing to obey this plain teaching in order to be saved.
3. Water Baptism is preceded By:
 - (1) Hearing The Word of God.
 - (2) Believing In God And His word.
 - (3) Repenting Of Sins.
 - (4) Confession of Faith In Jesus Christ As God's Son.

"Buried with Christ, my blessed Redeemer
Dead to the old life of folly and sin;
Satan may call, the world may entreat me,
There is no voice that answers within."