

## BAPTISM (2)

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:8,9**. From Roy H. Enoch.
- B. Some religious teachers would deny that baptism is essential to salvation. This lesson looks at some of the more popular arguments against baptism and how they are false.
- C. Without a doubt no one could ever be saved by works, or merit their own salvation. We are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8,9). The plan of salvation, including baptism for the remission of sins, is how one accesses that grace.
- D. Tonight's companion lesson will deal with some of the false arguments that people have used in trying to discredit the essentiality of baptism for salvation.

### SOME FALSE ARGUMENTS AGAINST BAPTISM.

- A. First, baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace.  
Answer:
  - 1. Baptism is not a sign, but a work of faith (Col. 2:12).
  - 2. We are not saved by grace alone (Eph. 2:8,9).
  - 3. Grace justifies when accompanied by baptism (Ti. 3:3-5).
- B. Second, Paul said he came to preach, not to baptize.  
Answer:
  - 1. Baptism was not the problem in Corinth (1Cor. 1:11-13).
  - 2. Paul baptized people in his ministry (1Cor. 1:14,16).
  - 3. All converts in Corinth were baptized (Ac. 18:8).
  - 4. The natural result of preaching is baptism (Mk. 16:15,16).
- C. Third, I was sprinkled (baptized) as a child.  
Answer:
  - 1. The mode of baptism by Greek definition is immersion.
  - 2. Baptism is a burial (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4).
  - 3. Children are safe and need not baptism (Mt. 18:3,10; Heb. 1:14).
  - 4. The example is adults being baptized (Ac. 8:12).
- D. Fourth, baptism is "BECAUSE OF" the remission of sins.  
Answer:
  - 1. The Greek word 'eis' is translated "for" and means "with a view toward, or a look forward."
  - 2. The same phrase is found in Mt. 26:28.
  - 3. Acts 2:38 says baptism is to forgive sins.
- E. Fifth, the thief on the cross was not baptized but was saved.  
Answer:
  - 1. The command to be baptized has not yet been given (Ac. 2:38).
  - 2. How could one share in Christ's death before Christ had even died?  
How could one be buried with Christ before He was buried (Rom. 6:3,4)?
  - 3. Christ had the power on earth to forgive sins (Mk. 2:10).
- F. Sixth, John 3:16 says all one has to do is believe.  
Answer:
  - 1. Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17).
  - 2. Baptism is a work of faith (Col. 2:12).
  - 3. John 3:16 is not the only command in the NT.
- G. Seventh, I prayed to God to forgive my sins.  
Answer:
  - 1. No where in the NT is one saved by prayer alone.

2. Cornelius prayed and gave alms but was not saved (Ac. 10:1,2).
3. God hears the prayers of the righteous (1Pet. 3:12; Jas. 5:16).
4. The Christian (not the non-Christian) who sins is to pray for forgiveness (Ac. 8:22).

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. The above list of argument is not meant to be exhaustive.
- B. Despite all of the attempts of men to discount baptism; it remains an essential part of becoming a Christian.
- C. For baptism to be valid it must be preceded by a proper faith, repentance of sin, and confession of the name of Christ.
- D. If we truly love Christ, we will keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15). And Jesus commanded baptism (Mt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16).