

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Jesus said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved."
- B. A simple statement made by Jesus himself is too often ignored by the religious world today.
- C. Today, why baptism, in water, by immersion only, is essential to salvation.

I. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE JESUS COMMANDED IT.

- A. We need to be baptized because Jesus told us to do so (Mk. 16:16; Mt. 28:19,20).
- B. With these plain directives of Christ, not to do them would be sin.
- C. Jesus also warned us about not following His commandments (Mt. 7 :21).

II. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE THE APOSTLES COMMANDED IT.

- A. Peter, who preached the first gospel sermon, told the people to repent and be baptized (Ac. 2:26-38; 10:48).
- B. Philip, who preached in Samaria, told the people to be baptized:
 - 1. See Acts 8:12.
 - 2. He spoke to the queen's treasurer (Ac. 8:36-38).
- C. Paul, who preached to the people in Ephesus, told them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Ac. 19:5).

III. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE IT IS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

- A. Peter told the people that they had sinned in putting Jesus to death. He then told them how to remove that sin (Ac. 2:37,38).
- B. Saul of Tarsus, was told by Ananias to be baptized to wash away his sins (Ac. 22:16).
- C. Some have incorrectly translated Ac. 2:38. But compare Mt. 26:28 and Ac. 2:38. In each case the Greek word is the same and means for" and not "because of."

IV. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS IT SAVES US.

- A. Peter tells us in his first letter the importance of baptism (1Pet. 3:21).

V. BAPTISM MUST BE BY IMMERSION IN WATER.

- A. There is only one command given in the NT which carries the meaning of a burial. That command is baptism (Rom. 6:3,4; Col. 2:12).
- B. The Greek word "*baptizo*" from which we get "baptism" has just one meaning in the original language--immersion.
- C. If God would have wanted other forms such as sprinkling, or pouring then there were other Greek words available. None were used.
- D. Paul states in Eph. 4:5 there is only one baptism, or one immersion.

VI. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION BECAUSE THE PLAN OF SALVATION IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT IT.

- A. In every conversion listed for us in the book of Acts the act of baptism is listed. Sometimes repentance, or confession is left out.
- B. Confession is not enough to save because Rom. 10:9,10 was a command written to Christians in Rome.
- C. Prayer by itself cannot save because God will only answer the prayers of the righteous (1Pet. 3:12; Jas. 5:16; Jn. 9:31).

VII. THE COMPLETE PLAN OF SALVATION AS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. First, one must hear the message of Christ (Rom. 10:17).
- B. Second, one must believe the message he hears (Heb. 11:6).
- C. Third, that message should cause him to want to change his life; repent (Lk. 13:3).
- D. Fourth, he should now want to confess Jesus as his new Lord and Master (Mt. 10:32).
- E. Fifth, to have the sins washed away and walk in newness of life; be baptized (Ac 2:38).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Hopefully, we have shown from the Bible that baptism, is by immersion only, in water, and is essential to salvation.
- B. Hopefully, this lesson has caused you think about your relationship with Christ.
- C. If you have not been baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins we PLEAD that you do so.
- D. Please come and visit us at the Sunnyside Road Church of Christ and we will assist you in becoming a New Testament Christian.