

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Titus 3:3-7**.
- B. This morning I spoke of how the Bible explicitly teaches that baptism is for the remission of sins, and essential to salvation (Mk. 16:16; Ac. 2:38; 22:16).
(Mk 16:16) He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
(Ac 2:38) Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Ac 22:16) Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’
- C. Some religious teachers would deny such being true. Tonight, we look at some of the arguments against baptism and why they are false.

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).
having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
 2. We are not saved by grace alone (Eph. 2:8,9).
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 3. Grace justifies when accompanied by baptism (Titus 3:3-5).
For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. **4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- B. Second, **Paul said he came to preach, not to baptize.**
Answer:
 1. Baptism was not the problem in Corinth (1Cor. 1:11-13).
For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s *people*, that there are quarrels among you. **12** Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.” **13** Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
 2. Paul baptized people in his ministry (1Cor. 1:14,16).
I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,... **16** Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.
 3. All converts in Corinth were baptized (1Cor. 1:13; Ac. 18:8).
(1Cor 1:13) Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
(Ac 18:8) Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.
 4. The natural result of preaching is baptism (Mk. 16:15,16).
And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
- C. Third, **I was sprinkled (baptized) as a child.**
Answer:
 1. The mode of baptism by definition is immersion.
 2. Baptism is a burial (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4).
(Col 2:12) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through

faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

(Rom 6:4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

3. Children are safe and need not baptism (Mt. 18:3,10; Heb. 1:14).

(Mt 18:3,10) and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven... **10** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

(Heb 1:14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

4. The example is adults being baptized (Ac. 8:12).

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

- D. Fourth, **baptism is BECAUSE OF the remission of sins.**

Answer:

1. The Gk. *eis* means to "for, with a view toward, or a look forward."

2. The same phrase is found in Mt. 26:28 and cannot be translated as "because of."
for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

3. Acts 2:38 says baptism's purpose is to forgive sins (and received the gift of the HS).

- 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).

Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. Now could one share in X's death before X had even died?

3. How could one be buried w/X before He was buried in the tomb (Rom. 6:3,4)?

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

4. X had the power on earth to forgive sins (Mk. 2:10).

- F. Sixth, **Jn. 3:16 says all one has to do is believe.**

Answer:

1. Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17).

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

2. Baptism is a work of faith (Col. 2:12).

having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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. The "sinner's prayer" is not found in the Bible.

2. Cornelius prayed and gave alms but was not saved (Ac. 10:1,2).

Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, **2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually.

3. God hears the prayers of the righteous (1Pet. 3:12; Jas. 5:16).

(1Pet 3:12) "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

(Jas 5:16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

4. The Xian who sins is to pray for forgiveness (Ac. 8:22).

Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The above list of arguments is not exhaustive.
- B. Despite the attempts of men to discount baptism, it remains an essential part of becoming a Xian.
- C. For baptism to be valid it must be preceded by a proper faith, repentance of sin, and confession of the name of X.
- D. If we truly love X we will do His commandments (Jn. 14:15).
“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.