

WHAT SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM TESTIFIES

Romans 6:3-11

Introduction:

- One of the most misused practices in the Bible – b_____
 1. How many kinds of baptisms are there? – Eph 4:5 - _____
 2. The one baptism refers to w_____ baptism
 - a. If Paul meant S_____ baptism, he would have made it clear as he did in I Cor 12:13 (see Matt 3:11)
 - b. When baptism is mentioned in the Bible, always assume water baptism unless the context clearly shows otherwise.
 3. Today we are going to look at scriptural baptism
- The purpose of this message
 1. If you have been scripturally baptized - that you will redetermine to match your present life with what you testified in that baptism.
 2. If you have not been scripturally baptized, that you will submit to scriptural baptism as an act of obedience to Christ.

Baptism is a Public Confession of Your Faith in Christ (3a)

- In the ancient culture, baptism was practiced by most religions
 1. Paganism – worship of many gods, but if identifying with a certain one, the person was baptized in b_____.
 2. Judaism – baptism was only administered to G_____ who identified with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 3. John the Baptist’s baptism – a public way of identifying with the coming M_____.
 4. Christian baptism – repenting of sin and publicly identifying with J_____ as your God.
- Biblical practice
 1. Baptism always followed saving f_____
 - a. A person was baptized the s_____ day they accepted Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:25,26; 9:18; 10:47,48; 16:14,15; 16:33,34)
 - b. There is not one example of i_____ baptism
 2. Some claim that the baptism of entire households supports infant baptism, but a look at Acts 16:30-34 shows otherwise.
 - a. Verse 31 - The condition for salvation – b_____ in the Lord Jesus
 - b. Verse 33 – the jailor believed with his w_____ household, which naturally excluding infants because they are incapable of believing.
 - c. Paul preached to the whole household, which naturally excludes preaching to babies (verse 32).
 - d. “Whole household” does not necessarily mean every individual in the house.
 - e. Matt 20:28 commands us to baptize only those whom we make into d_____ - infants do not qualify.
- If you were “baptized” before you were saved, that baptism is not the one baptism of Eph 4:5. Why is this so important?

Baptism is a Public Statement of Your Experience with Christ (3b)

- A d_____ is pictured in baptism – we *have been baptized into His death*
 1. The word “baptize” comes from Greek and means to d_____ under or immerse (see any English dictionary that gives the origin of words; see any Greek dictionary)
 2. Immersion pictures the d_____ and b_____ of Christ and of the person being baptized
 - a. Verse 4a - *buried with Him [Christ] through baptism [immersion]*
 - b. Verse 5a - *united with Him [Christ] in the likeness of His death*
 - c. Verse 6a – *our o_____ self has been crucified with Him*
 3. Sprinkling cannot picture a death or a burial; only immersion can.

- a. As you descend into the water it pictures death.
 - 1) Christ died for s_____
 - 2) Your old self that served sin has died.
- b. As you are under the water it pictures burial
 - 1) Christ was buried because He died
 - 2) Your old self is buried along with your s_____
- Objection – baptism does not save me so I do won't go to hell if I don't get baptized.
 - 1. The above statement is t_____ (Note: I Pet 3:21 states that baptism does save us, but NOT in the sense of washing away sin)
 - 2. But the conclusion that it makes baptism unimportant is f_____ - there are many things that don't save us, but they are important (e.g. – going to church, giving to God's work, doing a good deed).

Baptism is a Public Promise of Your New Life in Christ (4)

- A w_____ ceremony makes a public promise
 - 1. To be faithful to each other as long as you both shall l_____
 - 2. The commitment of faithfulness has already been made, but the vow just makes it p_____.
- Baptism makes public a commitment that has already been made in the heart to God
 - 1. The symbolic act – r_____ up out of the water (corresponding with Jesus rising from the dead – *so that as Christ was raised through the glory of the Father...*)
 - 2. The meaning of the act – a promise to live the new l_____ - *so that we too might walk in newness of life.*
- What is living the new life?
 - 1. It certainly is not living the o_____ life (2 Cor 5:17)
 - 2. It is living in a way that demonstrates that:
 - a. You are f_____ from slavery to sin (verse 7) – don't live the world's ways
 - b. You are in r_____ to God (verses 10,11) – live Christ's way.

Conclusion:

- There is only _____ baptism that is valid – immersion into water after coming to Christ in faith.
- Have you been baptized scripturally?
 - 1. If not – how will you respond to God's word?
 - 2. If so – remember what you testified in baptism by falling into the water, going underneath the water, and rising up out of the water and make sure you present life matches that commitment.