

UNSCRIPTURAL BAPTISM = NO BAPTISM!

When baptism is discussed, many denominational people will respond, “I have been baptized.” Therefore, believing they have already arrived at truth, and have been scripturally baptized they see no need of being baptized. Others are highly offended if any of their religious beliefs are called in question, and the doors of study are quickly slammed. No one should be highly offended or refuse to study the Bible on any given subject. As a matter of fact, we are commanded to, “...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Pet. 3:15).

As with all biblical subjects, the truth is set forth in God’s word and not in the councils of men! Many, including some brethren, will often ask, “What does the Church of Christ teach about...?” The truth of the matter is the church does not legislate anything of itself, but only teaches that which is revealed in God’s word! There is no such thing as “Church of Christ position!” Rather, the position on any given subject is set forth by Christ and His inspired writers as recorded in Holy Scripture! So the question regarding baptism (or any other biblical subject) is, “What does the Bible teach about baptism?” With this in mind, let’s go to the Bible and find the answer to the following questions:

Is baptism essential? “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:16). [Again the Bible states,] “Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

What about infant “baptism?” Note again **Mark 16:16**, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be

saved...” Also take note of **Acts 2:37**, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Therefore, infants are not sinners and do not have the capacity to understand what sin is or why they should be baptized. They are safe and not ready for scriptural baptism.

Does it matter if one is sprinkled or immersed? “Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom.6:4). [And] “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12).

Does it matter why one is baptized? Again study **Acts 2:38** and note that baptism is “for the remission of sins.” In connection with this, observe Galatians 3:27, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Therefore, if one has not been immersed “for the remission of sins” they have not put on Christ! Bear in mind, there is only “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5).

“Is baptism a command?” Regarding Cornelius and his household, Peter said, “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...” (Acts 10:48). Note also **Acts 10:33** where Cornelius said they were present “to hear all things that we have been commanded thee of the Lord.” Thus, in order for them to be saved they had to obey the command to be baptized!

Does water wash away sins? No! John informs us that the blood of Christ washes away sins, “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5). Paul states, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his

death” (Rom.6:3)? Therefore, one reaches the blood of Christ in baptism. This is why Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Further biblical evidence of this is found in I Peter 3:21, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Any account of people not being baptized for the right reason or scripturally? Yes, as a matter of fact there is in **Acts 19:1-5**. These people had been baptized under John’s baptism **AFTER** the baptism of the Great Commission came into effect and therefore when they learned of this “...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5). Many people in the denominational world have been baptized into a denomination and not into the body of Christ. Please, observe carefully the following:

Is man-made baptism scriptural? No!

Does man-made baptism place one into the body of Christ? No!

Therefore, man-made baptism = no baptism!

When should one be baptized? When were the 3,000 Jews on the day of Pentecost baptized (Acts 2:36-47)? When they were convicted of their sins and learned that forgiveness of sins came about when they believed in Christ to be the Messiah, repented of their sins, confessed Christ and were immersed for the remission of sins. My friend, you may have been baptized, but were you scripturally baptized?

Remember: Man-made baptism = no baptism!

Ivie Powell from Rowlettccoc.org

BIRTHDAYS

John Carter, 02-07; John James, 02-10.

ILL

Sunday: Brooke Nemechek (PM); Millie Robertson; Debbie Schleif.

Wednesday: Janice Carter; Caeden Cole; Brooke and Taylor Nemechek; Millie Robertson.

Louise Dodson had outpatient surgery on her knee on January 25. Jim O'Connor was admitted to Centerpoint Hospital in Independence on Wednesday. Tom Tucker's daughter, Mary Huffman, had back surgery on February 5 at North Kansas City Hospital.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Nelson's were visiting relatives in Newton, KS last weekend. Julia Thrasher was in Ardmore, OK last week caring for her mother. Chris Edwards was away on business last week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, February 7, following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, February 14, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 35; Sunday PM, 25; Wednesday PM, 24.

Those To Serve

February 7, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... George Thomas
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 10th

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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