

Baptism - continued

said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth... And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized" (Acts 9:6,9,11,18)

The Right Confession

In denominational baptism, people often confess a particular religious creed or they pray "the sinner's prayer". In Bible baptism, penitent sinners confessed that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God. Consider the follow scripture that talks about the Eunuch confessing Jesus as the Christ.

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:36-38).

- Chris Reeves -

(continued next week)

Sentence Sermons

- When there is no thirst for righteousness, the Bible class and the sermon are "dry and boring".
- Lying covers a multitude of sins, but only temporarily.
- Conviction, not convenience, will in part determine your eternal destiny.
- He who remembers only himself will soon be forgotten.
- Love the Lord with all your heart.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Bible Baptism vs. Denominational Baptism (Part I)

Many modern denominations, except for a few, practice baptism (Christian Scientists and Quakers, for example, do not). Many religious people, therefore, have submitted to baptism at some time in their life. What, if anything, is to be done with all these baptisms? Are all baptisms accepted by God? Must one re-submit to Bible baptism after already being baptized?

Some people today may be ignorant on the subject of baptism and we handle that the way Paul did (Acts 19:1-9); we teach them. Should we be sprinkled as an infant like Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, or Presbyterians? Should we be baptized after we are “saved” like Baptists and Jehovah’s Witnesses? Should we be baptized in the Holy Ghost like Pentecostals? Let’s answer all these questions by examining Bible baptism vs. denominational baptism.

The Right Authority

In denominational baptism, people appeal to the authority of human creeds and councils for their particular beliefs about baptism. In Bible baptism, the appeal is not to human authorities, but to the authority of (“in the name of”) Jesus and what he says about bap-

tism in the New Testament. Consider a few scriptures that talk about the authority (in the name) of Jesus on baptism.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19).

“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).

“For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 8:16).

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days” (Ac. 10:48).

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5).

“Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? ... Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name” (1 Corinthians 1:13,15)

The Right Person

In denominational baptism, the person being baptized can be an infant (such as Catholics), those already “saved” (such as Baptists), or those who are dead (such as Mormons). In Bible baptism, the person being baptized was always old enough to believe and obey, never “saved” already, and, of course, alive at the point of baptism. Consider a few scriptures that talk about the one being baptized.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:15-16)

“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? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you...” (Acts 2:37-38)

“And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do ... And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink ... And the Lord