

Baptized Again - cont.

was by the wrong authority (approval by man's voting), was for the wrong candidate (infants whose parents choose for them), was by the wrong mode (sprinkling, pouring), or was for the wrong purpose (to show I am already saved – an “outward sign of an inward grace”), then that person needs to be baptized again.

The fact is that people today can be sincere, but satisfied with their religion. They need more teaching about baptism. If people do not have a proper knowledge before they are baptized their baptism is without meaning. It is not wrong to be baptized again. It is not a question of being re-baptized to join a new church, but to be baptized the right way for the first time.

Like the 12, we should appreciate anyone showing us the truth and conform to it immediately. Like Paul, we should not accept one's baptism if it is invalid. Teach them the truth and baptized them right. Like the 12, people can be religious “disciples”, but not have the truth. There comes a time when we all have to make a choice: reject the truth and accept our status-quo, or accept the truth and reject our status-quo. Let us all choose to obey the Lord (Acts 19:5). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- A true friend is one who really knows us, and yet, still loves us.
- When you don't remain humble, you stumble.
- A strong faith weakens fear.
- You hear many echoes of error in the world, but very few real voices of truth.
- The cost is high for low living.

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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 -

Should I Be Baptized Again?

When Paul came to Ephesus a second time he found certain disciples of John the Baptist and he told them that they needed to be baptized into the name of Jesus (Acts 19:1-7). This is the only case of rebaptism recorded in the New Testament. The question I raise in this article is this: Why was there a need for them to be baptized again and who needs to be re-baptized today?

The place to begin in answering this question is to understand these disciples of John the Baptist. These 12 disciples had been taught John's baptism, possibly by Apollos (Acts 18:25). The baptism of John lasted until the baptism of Jesus was prescribed in the great commission (c. A.D. 33).

The story in Acts 19 takes place years later around A.D. 55, so the baptism of John was no longer valid. Additionally, when Paul wrote to the Ephesians later, c. A.D. 60, he wrote about the "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). The "one baptism" here is the baptism of Jesus for the remission of sins.

So, what we have in Acts 19 is this: the 12 disciples had been baptized, but not in the manner prescribed by Jesus in the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20). They had been baptized

with a baptism that was valid for a previous time period, but not for the time period that they were living in. This is why they needed to be baptized again.

The Baptisms of John and Jesus Compared

The baptism of John was commanded for the people of his day. He did it for the purpose of remissions of sins and to prepare the way for Jesus. It was for penitent



Jews. It was immersion in water. It ceased when he died. The scripture references for the baptism of John can be found here: Matthew 3:1-12; 21:25; Mark 1:4-8; Luke 3:3-17; 7:29-30; John 1:19-34; 3:23.

The baptism of Jesus was commanded for all mankind. It was for the purpose of forgiveness of sins. It was for all penitent believers, both Jew and Gentile. It was im-

mersion in water. It will last until the end of time. The scripture references for the baptism of Jesus can be found here: Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21; etc.

When you study the baptism that Jesus' commanded, you will find several important lessons. Bible baptism:

- must be by heaven's authority, not by the authority of a particular denomination (Matthew 28:19).
- must be of a believer's choice, not something parents do for an infant (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36).
- must be immersion in water, not sprinkling or pouring water (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
- must be for the remission of sins, not to show you already have forgiveness of sins or that you want to join a particular church (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The question that comes up today is this: Should I be baptized again? Many people have been baptized, but was their baptism according to the scriptures? If their baptism was not scriptural, then yes, they need to be baptized again. If a person's baptism