

# BAPTISM, HOW, WHO, AND WHY

Matt 28:19,20

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. In spite of the numerous passages dealing with baptism, there is still a great deal of misunderstanding concerning the subject.
- B. Some say they think they have been baptized, when all they did was get wet, since it was not scriptural baptism.
- C. So, what does it take to constitute baptism that is scriptural?

(Title)

## DISCUSSION:

### I. HOW IS ONE BAPTIZED?

- A. Webster says: Sprinkle, Pour-or Immerse (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary copyright 1958 - Webster's online does not mention sprinkling or pouring.
- B. Cambridge Dictionaries Online: A Christian ceremony in which a person has water poured on their head, or is covered briefly in water, in order to show that they have become a member of the Christian Church:
- C. Some religions say Sprinkle, pour or immerse - Example: Methodist discipline, 1952 p.519 "Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized have the choice of sprinkling, pouring or immersion"
- D. Word "Baptize" is a transliteration of the Greek words "baptizo" and "baptisma" which literally means to immerse, dip or plunge. (*Webster online: Etymology: Middle English, from Old French baptiser, from Late Latin baptizare, from Greek baptizein to dip, baptize, from baptein to dip, dye; akin to Old Norse kvefja to quench*)
- E. Scripture allows only immersion
  1. Much water Jhn 3:23
  2. Came to water, went down into water. came up out of water Acts 8:36-39
  3. **HE** baptized **HIM** Acts 8:38
    - a. Sprinkle = scatter in little drops; to scatter a liquid in fine drops
    - b. Pour = turn out into a stream; to move with a continuous flow
  4. Baptism is a burial Rom 6:3,4; Col 2:12

### II. WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Methodist discipline Article XVII, 1952 The baptism of young children is to be retained in the church
- B. Baptist immerse those whom they say are already saved. "There is an **actual**, a **real** remission of sins when we believe in Christ" Baptist manual 1958 p. 13
- C. The Scriptures teach:
  1. The taught Matt 28:19,20
  2. The believer Mk 16:16; Acts 8:36,37 Note: Rom 10:17

3. The penitent Acts 2:38
4. Those who confess Christ Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9,10
5. Unsaved were baptized Mk 16:16 Acts 22:16; Col 2:12,13
6. Also, those who were baptized for the wrong reason Acts 19:3-5

- D. This brings up the question of purpose of baptism

### III. WHY BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Methodist: "a sign of profession " "...a sign of regeneration..." Discipline Article XVII 1952
- B. Baptist manual: "Baptism is a symbolic release of the Soul from the defilement of sin" p. 13
  1. "Baptist believe that no one is a scriptural subject for baptism till he is already saved. All well informed people know we teach this: then upon what ground can they say we believe baptism essential to salvation." (What Baptist Believe, p.37)
  2. "Baptist do not baptize in order to take away sin" (Why we Are Baptist p. 16)
- C. The Scriptures teach that the unsaved are baptized:
  1. To be saved Mk 16:16; 1Pet 3:21
  2. For the remission of sins Acts 2:38 (Note: "for" in Matt 26:28 = in order to have)
  3. To wash away sins Acts 22:16
  4. To put on Christ Gal 3:26,27
  5. To enter Christ's body 1Cor 12:13
  6. To obtain the benefits of Christ's death Rom 6:3,4
- D. There is no "special formula that must be said over one who is being baptized."
  1. Words spoken by the one doing the baptizing has nothing to do with whether the baptism is scriptural
  2. If so then the person doing the baptizing could cause the person being baptized to be lost.
- E. Yes it is to be "in the name of" that is by the authority of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and for the remission of sins and as long as the one being baptized understand this, then upon the confession of their faith, nothing need be said, but simply immerse them in water.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Only those baptized in the proper manner, as the proper subject and for the proper purpose will the Lord add to His church Acts 2:47
- B. Only scriptural baptism saves a person. Unscriptural baptism gives one false hopes and will cause one to be lost unless they are baptized scripturally
- C. So, the question must be asked: if I have been baptized, was it a scriptural baptism?