

WHY BAPTIZE ANYWAY?

Mark 1:9-11

Why is it necessary to follow the formalities of baptism today?

Why can't we simply trust Jesus Christ and let that be the end of things?

Why do Baptists practice believers baptism?

I want to begin by giving you some Bible answers to why, how, and who.

Why baptize? How to be baptized? Who should be baptized?

I

Why Baptize Anyway?

Because this is what Jesus said to do.

Matt. 28:19 Jesus tells his followers to baptize new converts.

Baptism because it became a mark of allegiance and identification.

It declared that a man was a follower of the Christ and his way.

It verified the humility of the convert. To take orders, one must recognize a higher authority.

If a man is going to be his own god, he will say what he is going to do.

If Jesus is going to be his God, man in humility will do what Jesus asks him to do.

Baptism is an action which initially settles the question of obedience.

II

How Are we Going To Baptize?

The New Testament gives us the pattern or mode - immersion. A believer should be immersed beneath the water to fulfill the basic meaning used in the New Testament.

The New Testament word Baptism comes from the Greek verb Baptizo, meaning to immerse.

Dr. Conner says immersion, and immersion only, constitutes the act of baptism.

There are sound reasons for this position.

First, this is the way Jesus was baptized. (Mark 1:10.)

Baptized of John into the River Jordan.

"Coming straightway up out of the water" - John did not sprinkle water on Jesus, nor pour water on Jesus, He did one specific thing - he dipped, immersed Jesus for hæ"came up out of the water".

Jesus would not have walked down into the water just to be sprinkled.

Acts 8:38-39 - When Philip baptized the Eunuch they went down into the water and came up out of the water. The Bible says they went down into the water and baptized him and they came up out of the water.

I can't find any other method in my Bible - now yours may be different from mine. When you find it, let me know.

Second, The Greek Word Means Immerse.

Thayer, N. T. Greek Lexicon - defines the meaning as immerse, submerge.

Cremer, Lexicon of N. T. Greek - defines meaning as immerse, submerge.

Now there were words in the Greek language in the N. T. days, meaning sprinkle and pour.

But the N. T. writers always use the word that means to dip or immerse.

If they thought of sprinkling or pouring as baptism, why is it that they never use the words that mean to sprinkle or to pour to describe the act of baptism?

Third, A Strong Reason Lies In the Significance of the Ordinance

Some people readily grant that the N. T. way of baptizing was by immersion, but say there is no necessity.

Catholics hold that the church had a right to change the act or mode of baptism since ultimate authority is vested in the church.

Some Protestants maintain that it is unimportant and are divided over the amount of water used in baptism.

This argument is very misleading. Especially is this misleading to people

The fundamental question here is really this: what is the meaning and purpose of baptism?

What is baptism for?

It sets forth the facts of the Gospel - the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore baptism represents a death, burial, and resurrection.

✓ Sprinkling or pouring does not represent this.

The act of immersion in Baptism represents the death, burial and resurrection - anything else is a substitute for baptism.

Bible says Romans 6:3-4 - "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Immersion is the only way this Scripture makes sense. I Cor. 15:1, 29; Col. 2:12.

We turn next to the candidate for Baptism -

Who Should Be Baptized?

III
A person who has heard the Gospel, accepts its message and believes in Christ as his Saviour.

This is why we stress believer's baptism. Right standing with God comes by faith alone. Baptism then, follows a man's confession of faith.

It symbolically shows the world a new spiritual allegiance. Acts. 2:41; 8:12-13; 10:47-48; Mark 16:15-16.

John The Baptist demanded fruits worthy of repentance before he would baptize. Matt. 3:7.

Jesus made and baptized disciples - John 4:1.

Jesus gave an order to his Disciples in Matt. 28:19.

Day of Pentecost they baptized those who received the word. Acts 10:41.

There is a conflicting view maintained that infant children should be baptized. Based on various grounds.

Roman Catholics and others hold to sacramental salvation - they hold to the ground that children are regenerated in baptism.

Some say the child should be baptized and reared in the church.

This denies the N. T. teaching to the effect that no person can enter the Kingdom without regeneration.

It also disregards the fact that salvation is a (personal transaction) and the grace of God must be personally appropriated.

There is no evidence to favor the practice of infant baptism.

This idea drifted into Protestant Churches during the Reformation.

Martin Luther came from a Roman background. Some of his theology remained Roman until his death. Infant baptism was one of these points.

Other reformers like John Calvin did not change this.

Methodism continues to sprinkle infants because John Wesley was greatly influenced by the Anglican system. Wesley believed in personal conversion, yet he saw little harm in using infant baptism as a way of relating a home to his church.

Baptists do not baptize infants because there is no teaching in the N. T. supportive of this view.

By the 4th century the N. T. view of baptism had all but disappeared.

The change from immersion to sprinkling occurred over the centuries.

Some say because of persecution or danger, or the sick, impossible, or it was just plain more convenient.

King James translated in 1611.

Anglican churchmen - the Anglican Church practiced baptism by sprinkling.

They knew the Greek language.

Dilemma - How can we translate the Greek word Baptizo without incurring the theological wrath of our Anglican peers?

They solved their problem by transliterating instead of translating baptize.

They took the English letters of our alphabet and put them in place of the Greek letters.

Thus instead of their translation reading, "I immerse you", it would conveniently read "I baptize you".

This was expedient for them and kept King James happy.

This shows why it is necessary to go to the original language in the N. T. and discover the genuine concept of Christian baptism.

Yes, we baptize believers - enables them to affirm their obedience - their loyalty - their allegiance and their seriousness in following the commands of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever submitted in humility to the way your Lord was baptized?

Did your Baptism point to the death, burial, and resurrection of your Lord?

Did it proclaim a transforming experience? Did it express the blessed hope of a glorious resurrection of the body at the return of the Lord.

Every believer will request baptism - if Jesus was Baptized and commanded it, the Bible affirms it, the Holy Spirit approved it, you will not want a short cut into Heaven.

Proper administrator of Baptism.

Where there is not a church - a Christian could baptize - they then sought fellowship.

Clergy - Mission Study Wednesday night - Providence R. I. Roger Williams was baptized By A Mr. Holloman after he had baptized Mr. Hollomon, then Williams baptized 10 other people and a Baptist Church was started.

Those who follow the Bible Way of Baptism will discover unspeakable joy.

Acts 8:39 "He went on his way rejoicing". He had fulfilled his Lord's command! Why not make your own "calling sure" by being obedient in this important matter.

*Woman called
Sun - P.M.
Ch. Friday
Blessing
Joy - Prud
sermon
Chambers*
Bible believing followers of Christ know why it is necessary to be baptized.