

Believer's Baptism?

(12/06/16)

BAP'TISM, *noun* [Gr. to baptize.]

1. The application of water to a person, as a sacrament or religious ceremony, by which he is initiated into the visible church of Christ. This is usually performed by sprinkling or immersion.
2. The sufferings of Christ. Matt.xx22.23.
3. So much of the gospel as was preached by John, the Baptist. [Acts 18:25](#).

Baptism comes from “bapto” (to wash, to dip in dye, immerse in color; or a dipping, bathing or washing; to plunge one vessel into another for the purpose of filling the former)

I. *Matt 3:1-6*- 1st use- John's baptism

- A) Baptism linked to repentance & confession, and had only to do with Jews
- B) *Matt 3:13-17*- The baptism of Jesus Christ was to “fulfill all righteousness”

- 1) *Matt 5:17 & Rom 10:5*- Then Jesus' baptism was in fulfillment of the requirements of the Law, and not of Abraham's Covenant (*Lev 26:42*)

- i. *Lev 26:40-46*- Confession of the broken Covenant required

- a) *Rom 7:1-4*- This Covenant under Moses came after the Abrahamic and interrupted it and therefore had to be put away in order for the Covenants of Promise come to pass

II. *John 2:22-25*- Jews understood baptism to be “purifying”

- A) *Acts 22:16*- Ananias believes baptism will “wash away sins”

- 1) This is due to the ritual physical cleansing of Moses Law, as in *Lev ch 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, etc.*

- B) *Heb 9:13-15*- The writer of Hebrews explains that all the ordinances of the Old Covenant had to do with the flesh, but the New Covenant with the Spirit

- 1) *1 Pet 3:18-21*- Peter understood when he wrote this letter that baptism was not a physical water ritual, but rather an identification “In Christ”

- 2) *1 Cor 10:1-6*- Paul compares the Israelites' identification with Moses to our identification in Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor 12:13*)

- i. Notice in the passages, the meat, drink and Rock are all spiritual; so also then is the baptism

- a) *1 Pet 5:14*- Peter and his converts/readers were “in Christ”

- b) *Rom 16:7*- There were those “in Christ” before Paul

- (1) The only means of being placed “in Christ” is by the one baptism of *1 Cor 12:13*, so Peter and the 12 and those of *Acts 2-8* had also been

partakers of this same spiritual baptism, but didn't seem to know it until it is revealed unto Paul

III. Water baptism today

- A) *Acts 22:16*- Used to say water baptism washes away sin by those such as Catholics today
- B) *Acts 2:38*- Used to say water baptism is necessary for salvation by those such as the Church of Christ
- C) *Rom 6:3-4*- Used to say water baptism is a public testimony of what a person has believed by those such as Southern Baptists today
- D) *1 Cor 12:13*- Used today by Fundamental Baptists to say water baptism makes you part of the "local body"
- E) *Mark 16:16*- Used to say water baptism was necessary for the salvation of the Jews in the church during the Acts period by Hyperdispensationalists
 - 1) This same group today says anyone who was water baptized after believing never really believed and is lost (what about Paul?)

IV. Testing the formula of water baptism for salvation of early Jewish believers such as Peter and his converts

- A) This theory uses *Mark 16:16* and other verses such as *Acts 2:38* to say the method of salvation for Peter and his followers was: 1st believe and 2nd be water baptized
 - 1) *John 1:35-42*- The disciples of John are baptized before believing on or even seeing Christ
 - i. *Acts 1:21-22*- This applies to the 12 as well
 - 2) Where is Peter's (or any other of the 12) baptism after believing?
 - i. The unbelief of the 12 after their water baptism by John
 - a) *Mark 16:14, Luke 18:34, Luke 24:11, John 11:15, John 13:19, John 14:1, John 14:29, John 16:30-31*
 - b) *Mark 4:12* vs *Luke 22:32* (Peter unconverted)
 - ii. Then someone might say that John's water baptism before they believed was allowed to count for them as a "saving baptism"
 - a) *Acts 19:1-7*- Then why didn't these 12 men get credit for John's baptism? This baptism can only be either water "re-baptism" because John's wasn't enough, or it is the baptism by the Spirit into the Body of Christ.
 - (1) If these men are water baptized by Paul for salvation, then Paul lied
 - (2) *1 Cor 1:14-17*- This also occurs after the writing of 1 Corinthians in which Paul stated
 - (3) *Acts 18:24-28*- Also, where was Apollos' "re-baptism" after belief? Where is the 12's "re-baptism" after believing? Barnabas? Silas? Etc.
- 3) Judas Iscariot was baptized of John
- 4) *Luke 23:39-43*- If John's water baptism of repentance is the required baptism, then what about the thief on the cross?

- 5) *Acts 5:12-14*- If no one was willing to publicly join themselves unto this group, and a public water baptism was required, then how were “believers added to the Lord?”
 - 6) *Acts 10:34-44*- How did Cornelius get the Holy Ghost, as well as those of his house without water baptism?
- V. Water baptism is definitely there after the cross, but it was not needed
- A) *Acts 22:16*- Paul baptized in water after believing
 - B) *Acts 10:44-48*- Cornelius and his house baptized in water after believing and receiving the Holy Ghost
 - C) *Heb 6:1-2*- Writer of Hebrews says to move on beyond “baptisms”
 - 1) How could they do this if preaching water baptism was a necessary part of their ministry?
- VI. Putting a handful of verses before the full testimony of the scriptures always results in blindness and tunnel vision
- A) There are a large number of verses that clearly state salvation is by faith, and make no mention of a required water baptism, nor and “enduring”
 - 1) *Mark 1:15*- Believe (no mention of baptism)
 - 2) *Luke 8:12*- Believe and be saved (no mention of baptism)
 - 3) *John 1:7*- That **all** might believe (no mention of baptism)
 - 4) *John 1:12*- Believe on His name (no mention of baptism)
 - 5) *John 3:15-18*- Believe and get eternal life (no mention of baptism)
 - 6) *John 3:36*- Believe and have everlasting life (no mention of baptism)
 - 7) *John 5:24*- Believe and pass from death to life (no mention of baptism)
 - 8) *John 6:29*- Believe on Him (no mention of baptism)
 - 9) *John 6:35*- Believe on Me and never thirst (no mention of baptism)
 - 10) *John 6:40*- Believe and have everlasting life (no mention of baptism)
 - 11) *John 6:47*- He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life (no mention of baptism)
 - 12) *John 7:38-39*- They that believe receive the Holy Spirit (no mention of baptism)
 - 13) *John 9:35-38*- Believe on Him (no mention of baptism)
 - 14) *John 11:25-26*- Believe and never die (no mention of baptism)
 - 15) *John 11:40*- Believe and see the Glory (no mention of baptism)
 - 16) *John 17:20-21*- Believe on Me (no mention of baptism)
 - 17) *John 20:31*- Believe and have life (no mention of baptism)
 - 18) *Acts 10:43*- **Whosoever** believes receives remission of sins (no mention of baptism)
 - 19) *Acts 13:39*- **All** that believe are justified (no mention of baptism)
 - 20) *Acts 15:7-11*- Believe in order to be saved (no mention of baptism)
 - 21) *Rom 1:16*- To **everyone** that believeth (no mention of baptism)

- 22) *Rom 3:22*- Unto **all** and upon **all** that believe (no mention of baptism)
- 23) *Rom 4:11*- Abraham father to **all** that believe (no mention of baptism)
- 24) *Rom 9:33*- **Whosoever** believeth (no mention of baptism)
- 25) *Rom 10:4*- **Everyone** that believeth (no mention of baptism)
- 26) *Gal 3:22*- Spirit of Promise to them that believe (no mention of baptism)
- 27) *1 Tim 1:16*- **All** hereafter believing to life everlasting (no mention of baptism)
- 28) *1 Tim 4:10*- Saviour of **all** that believe (no mention of baptism)
- 29) *Heb 10:39*- Believe to the saving of the soul (no mention of baptism)
- 30) *Heb 11:6*- Faith pleases God (no mention of baptism)
- 31) *1 Pet 1:21*- By Him believe (no mention of baptism)
- 32) *1 Pet 2:6-7*- He that believeth not confounded (no mention of baptism)
- 33) *1 John 3:23*- Believe on His name (no mention of baptism)
- 34) *1 John 5:1*- **Whosoever** believeth is born of God (no mention of baptism)
- 35) *1 John 5:5*- Believeth = overcometh (no mention of baptism)
- 36) *1 John 5:10*- Believeth on the Son (no mention of baptism)
- 37) *1 John 5:13*- Believe and have eternal life (no mention of baptism)
- B) Paul and Peter agree that “**whosoever** shall call on the Lord shall be saved”
 - 1) *Acts 2:21*
 - 2) *Rom 10:13*

VII. When baptism is linked to salvation, the word is in the passive voice (subject acted upon, not active voice where subject is acting, and not middle voice where subject is acting for self))

- A) *Mark 16:16*- Baptized is passive voice
- B) *Acts 2:38*- Baptized is passive voice
- C) *Acts 19:4*- Baptized is passive voice
 - 1) Compare *Acts 22:16*- Baptized is middle voice
 - 2) *Acts 8:38*- Baptized is active voice
 - 3) *1 Cor 1:14-17*- Baptize is active voice