

The Importance of Baptism

(Mark 16:15-16)

- Introduction:
1. The aim of this lesson is to do our part in raising a generation who knows (Judges 2:10).
 2. Statements I've heard about baptism.
 - a. It's good but not necessary.
 - b. I plan to get baptized in two weeks.
 - c. I've been baptized but want to be rebaptized.
 3. It is a shame that something that was meant to be unifying, has become a source of division in religious circles.
 4. Let's cut through the religious divisions, and simply go back to the Bible for answers.

I. Baptism Is An Immersion

- A. (Romans 6:3-4).
- B. The Greek words... (Leviticus 14:15-16).
 1. Cheo – pour.
 2. Rantizo – sprinkle.
 3. Baptizo – immerse.

II. Baptism Is Essential

- A. (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16).
- B. It is not a work of merit.
 1. It is a condition to a free gift.
 2. It is the same kind of "work" that faith is (John 6:29).
- C. It is the time, place, and event of one's conversion to Jesus.
 1. (Romans 6:3-4).
 2. (Acts 2:38 & Acts 3:19).

III. Baptism's Connection to Faith

- A. (Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:17).
- B. Obedience to God's commands can involve at least three elements.
 1. What?
 2. How?
 3. Why?
- C. In order to obey God, we must obey all three.

IV. Rebaptism

- A. Rebaptism is sometimes needed (Acts 19:1-5).
- B. If one did not have the right motive or understanding, this is what they should do.
- C. But not if it is a matter of maturity, increased knowledge, or to salve one's conscience.
- D. God has two laws of pardon that need to be respected.
 1. Non-Christian Sinner (Acts 2:38).
 2. Christian sinner (Acts 8:14-25).

- Conclusion:
1. Let's not argue with God's word on the simplicity of biblical baptism.
 2. Rather let us celebrate the unity it brings and fellowship it introduces us to with God and his people.