

# ERRORS IN BAPTISM

## I. Introduction:

- A. There are frequently mistakes that are committed when baptizing an individual, thus it becomes necessary to study this subject, in the light of the Holy Scriptures.
- B. We need to understand that baptism is the dividing line between salvation and condemnation, and if one has not been baptized correctly or for the right purpose, they have not been saved and are in danger of losing their soul.

## II. The Purpose of Baptism

- A. According to all of these scriptures, we can understand that in order for a person to be baptized, he needs to hear the word of God, believe it, repent from his past life, and confess that Jesus Christ is the son of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:37; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- B. Also, we understand that baptism is for salvation and for the remission of sins. It is through obedience to this commandment that we are added to the body of Christ, His church.

## III. Frequent Errors in Baptism

- A. Infant and Child Baptism
  - 1. The Bible clearly teaches that children are innocent and without sin (Mt. 18:1-3, 19:13-14)
  - 2. A newborn or a little child cannot fulfill the requirements of hearing, believing, repenting, and confessing with his mouth that Jesus Christ is the son of God, in order to be baptized.
  - 3. Neither can he sin, as sin is the transgression of the law of God, and a little child has not transgressed the law of God. Therefore it is a mistake when a child is baptized.
  - 4. There is satanic doctrine that says that the child is born totally depraved and a sinner, or that he has inherited Adam's sin. But the Bible teaches otherwise (Ecc. 7:27)
  - 5. We can see how God made man upright, without sin, but when he grows up and reaches youth, or the age of accountability, then he becomes a sinner (Gen. 8:21; Jer. 32:30)
  - 6. So, when the child is born he is not a sinner, as he is in a state of innocence. But as he grows older he leaves the innocence of childhood and he becomes a young person, and he becomes a sinner. And then it is when he needs to be baptized because of the sins that he has committed.
  - 7. We must realize that there are three kingdoms on the earth:
    - a. The Natural Kingdom
    - b. Satan's Kingdom

- c. Christ's Kingdom, the church.
- 8. When the child is born, he is born into the natural kingdom, where there is no sin. When that child grows old he leaves his childhood, that natural kingdom, and enters into the kingdom of Satan
  - a. LUST → SIN → DEATH (Js. 1:13-15)
- 9. And it is when he is in this kingdom of Satan, that he needs to be baptized, not before.
  - a. Now the question is? At what age should we baptize a person? And the Bible tells us that baptism is for the person that has left childhood and is in his youth, as we have read in Genesis 8:21.
  - b. We could not say any particular age, 10, 11, 12, because the Bible doesn't say any particular age.
    - i. **Childhood:** The state or time of being a child. And child is defined as: A boy or girl, most commonly one between infancy and youth.
    - ii. **Youth:** The state or condition of being young. The period when one is young; the part of life between childhood and manhood, adolescence.
    - iii. **Adolescence:** The period of growth from puberty to adulthood. The age from 13-19.
    - iv. (Funk and Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary, 1983 Edition.)
  - c. So, it is very important that we, as parents, watch the physical and mental development of our sons to be able to determine if they have already left childhood and are ready for baptism. If our sons and daughters are already in their youth, physically and mentally, then they are sinners. They have left the natural kingdom and have entered the kingdom of Satan, and now they need to be baptized.
- B. Denominational Baptism
  - 1. What if someone has been baptized by a denominational church?
  - 2. First of all, we need to talk to them about the purpose of baptism. Explain to them that baptism is for salvation, (Mark 16:16), in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, (Matt. 28:19), means to be immersed in water (Romans 6:4).
  - 3. The majority of the denominations do not believe that baptism is for salvation. They believe and teach that they are saved when they believe that Jesus is their Savior, and then they are baptized because they are saved. They say: Believe = Salvation + Baptism.
  - 4. But the Bible clearly says that we need to Believe + Baptism = Salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
  - 5. Moreover, baptism puts one into Christ, into his body, which is the Church (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47)
  - 6. Denominational baptism will not give you salvation nor put you in Christ's body, the church. Therefore denominational baptism is an error and we cannot accept it.
- C. Baptism of individuals who continue in fornication or adultery

1. From time to time, while studying with individuals that desire to be baptized, it might come to light they are living in fornication or adultery. What should we do?
  2. The first thing we need to do is to teach them that they are living in adultery or fornication, and that if they are baptized without being married, they are going to continue to live in sin, and consequently they are not going to please the Lord.
  3. When we repent, we change our ways - that is what repentance means, "to turn around". Also we are baptized to live a new life, a different life than what we were living before (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17)
  4. So, we understand that after we are baptized, we start a new life and we should not continue in the old life, the old way of living. Therefore people who are just living together without being married, should get married before baptism, and if they cannot be married for any reason, they should separate until they can get married, so that they can be baptized, and not to continue in sin after baptism.
- D. Baptism simply to please others
1. Some individuals are baptized simply because of the pressure they feel from family, friends, or the leadership of the congregation.
  2. Baptism needs to be done when the person realizes their lost condition and they understand the necessity of baptism.

**IV. What Should an Individual do if they were Baptized in Error?**

- A. When a person realizes that his baptism is not in accordance with Scripture, he should correct his baptism, by being baptized correctly.
- B. Does this violate the Bible's teaching of one faith, one Lord, one baptism?
- C. People should not be baptized over and over again, and that the Bible speaks of only one baptism, but the Bible speaks of the right baptism.
- D. When there is a mistake in one's baptism, they have not really been baptized. They do not have the one baptism that the Bible speaks of, they are not baptized at all, and they need the Bible baptism (Acts 19:5-7)

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