

BAPTISM STUDY

1. Review Romans 3:23 and Luke 13:5

- A. All have sinned/all must repent (repent or perish)
- B. Sin must be forgiven/need a new start/Wall between man and God removed
- C. What does the Bible say about when a person gets their sins forgiven?

2. John 3:1-7 - Jesus speaking.

A. A person **must** be born again. Whatever this born again thing is, it's absolutely necessary. A person can not see or enter the kingdoms of God without it.

B. A person must be **born** again. A new life, a new beginning. (Only need to start over when we've messed something up. We messed our lives up, and Jesus is giving us a chance to start fresh, and live the way we were created to live!)

C. A person must be born **again**. Born [again] defined as Born [of water and spirit]. Just like there is a specific point in time a person is physically born, there is a specific time a person is born of water & spirit.

3. Acts 2:22-41 - Peter speaking.

A. Acts 2:22-24 - What message must a person believe?

- 1. Jesus is from God - miracles (v.22)
- 2. Jesus died on a cross because of sin (v.23) - all have sinned and are therefore responsible.
- 3. God raised Jesus from the dead! (v.24)

B. Acts 2:37 - What is the response of the people?

- 1. Cut to the heart - they believed.
- 2. Asked what must they do - they wanted to get right.

C. Acts 2:38-41 - Once a person believes, what must they do?

- 1. "**Repent**" Greek metanoia mind change - to turn
- 2. "**Baptized**" Greek baptizo - to dip, plunge or immerse (in water)

*What makes me jumping in a pool not a baptism...?

- 1. "**In the name of Jesus**" By the authority of Jesus Ex. Check Analogy
- 2. "**For the forgiveness of sins**" That's the amount in the check analogy.
Logic: What separates a person from God? So, what must be forgiven in order to have a relationship with God? At what point in time is a person's sins forgiven? @ Baptism!
- 3. "**And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" Promise for those who do this. That generation (you), the next (your children), and all those thereafter (even us).

D. Here we have it! One event that involves BOTH water and spirit.

4. Romans 6:3-4 - Paul speaking.

A. "All of **us** who were baptized" Paul includes himself. (Acts 22:16 where his sins were washed away. If it's good enough for Paul... It's good enough for me!)

B. "Baptized into his death... Buried with him... Raised to new life." More than "just a symbol."

C. Why is baptism for forgiveness of sins? Coming into contact with Jesus' blood.

D. "Raised to new life"

E. How to get INTO Christ... Baptized INTO Christ (v.3)

- i. One other scripture tells us how to get into Christ... Gal. 3:26-27
- ii. The bible never says to:
 - Believe INTO Christ
 - Repent INTO Christ
 - Confess INTO Christ
 - Pray INTO Christ
- iii. Door Analogy: Door is the entrance to Starbucks. Either IN or OUT.
Baptism is the entrance into Christ. Either IN or OUT.

5. Scriptures taken OUT OF CONTEXT to say baptism is not the point of salvation...

A. Rev. 3:20 "Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart. Say this prayer and invite Jesus into your heart."

BUT IN CONTEXT Written to a church so written to Christians not non-Christians; teaches lukewarm Christians they need to repent and pray. Is not talking about initial conversion. Began in the 1800's in America.

B. John 3:16 "All you need to do is believe that Jesus died for your sins."

BUT IN CONTEXT Middle of a conversation. If you did not hear the whole conversation, a person could miss what was being said. This is the conversation with Nicodemus—you must be born again of water and Spirit.

C. Rom. 10:9 "See! Believe and confess. Says nothing about baptism."

BUT IN CONTEXT Written after Romans 6; never talks about repentance; must put all Scriptures together and not pick and choose.

Note: To know the Bible truth on any subject, put together all the Bible says on that subject. The Bible never contradicts: {saved by faith, saved by grace, saved by repentance, saved by good confession, saved by baptism—1 Peter 3:21} *Which one is it? ALL OF THEM!

6. Conclusion:

- A. Baptism is being born again of water and the Spirit.
- B. Baptism is when a person's sins are initially forgiven.
- C. Baptism is when a person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Baptism is the beginning of the new life.
- E. Baptism is how I get INTO Christ and Christ gets into me.
- F. What do you believe you need to do? (Be urgent)

Next Study: a. Will look at more scriptures on baptism and more conversion stories in the Bible. We will also look more into the false teachings about this very important subject.

b. Set up the next study...time, date and place!