

# BAPTISM: What It Does and Does Not Do

## Introduction:

- A. It's hard to read very far in the New Testament without coming across a reference to baptism.
- B. But why? What is it? What does it do? And what does it *not* do?

## I. Baptism: By What Authority?

- A. In *Luke 20:2*, the chief priests and scribes asked Jesus a vitally important question.
  - 1. Jesus used the opportunity to bring these men face-to-face with the truth (*20:3-4*).
  - 2. Their blatant unbelief and hypocrisy were exposed via their selfish reasoning (*20:5-8*).
- B. And yet, there is a lesson here for us. Respect for God and his will implies respect for authority.
- C. The authority for baptism is not difficult to find in the New Testament (*Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38*).

## II. Baptism: What Is It?

- A. From the Greek root *baptizo* — to dip, immerse, submerge, plunge, overwhelm.
- B. Examples of *baptizo* abound in the New Testament (*Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:3-4*).

## III. Baptism: What It Does Not Do

- A. It does not irresistibly change one's \_\_\_\_\_ (*Acts 9:1-9, 17-19; 22:16*).
- B. It does not miraculously alter the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's life (*Jonah 3:1-10; Matt 12:41*).
- C. It does not supernaturally solve all of life's \_\_\_\_\_ (*Acts 2:41; 4:4; 8:1-3*).
- D. It does not magically immunize against \_\_\_\_\_ (*Gal 5:16-21*) or \_\_\_\_\_ (*Rev 2:10*).
- E. It does not guarantee \_\_\_\_\_ as one's default destination (*Rev 2:7; 3:5, 19-22*).

## IV. Baptism: What It Does

- A. It brings one into contact with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (*John 1:29; Eph 1:7; 2:13; 1 John 1:7*).
- B. It puts one \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (*Gal 3:26-29*).
- C. It leads to being added by the Lord to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (*Acts 2:47; Eph 1:22-23; 4:3-4*).
- D. It serves as a means of presenting oneself as an obedient \_\_\_\_\_ to God (*Rom 6:15-18*).
- E. It remains as an indispensable step in the "obedience of \_\_\_\_\_" (*Rom 1:5; 16:26; 1 Pet 3:20-22*).