



The Purpose Of Baptism

Baptismal Regeneration (1/2)

Belief that baptism is a “sacrament” that has a mysterious, innate power to remove the contamination of sin independent of personal faith and a voluntary submission to God’s plan of redemption

Baptismal Regeneration (2/2)

“A sacrament of the New Law instituted by Jesus Christ, in which, as a result of washing with water accompanied by the words ‘I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,’ a human being is spiritually regenerated, and made capable of receiving the other sacraments” (Attwater, p.45)

Baptism alone . . .

- Baptismal regeneration never saved anyone
- “But it is the only act mentioned in 1 Pt.3:21”
- Other passages require faith, repentance, confession (Ac.8:12)
- When baptism is **preceded** by these, it introduces the person into **many relationships**

I. Relation To **Godhead**, Mt.28:19

- Baptism "*into the name of*"?
- Late 1800s: piece of pottery contains phrase in an order to an official of a state granary to transfer wheat to *another person's account* (LAE, 131)
- "Through baptism [*into the name*] those who are baptized become the possession of and come under the dedicated protection of the one whose *name they bear*" (BDAG, 713)

Godhead

- 1 Co.1:12

"Of" = belong to; ownership . . .
"Of" Paul; Apollos; Cephas; **Christ**

- 1 Co.1:13

baptized "into the name" shows
how one belongs to someone



II. Relation To **Salvation**, Mk.16:16

“He . . . will be saved” – what ‘he’?

– Two conditions: belief, baptism

From Detroit today:

General Motors announced that whoever believes and is baptized will receive a new car; those who do not believe will not receive one.

What would you do?

What would you do for a new car?

- Claim new car on faith alone?
- Reject baptism; would be earning it?
- Baptism is unnecessary: ad does not say, “those who do not believe and are not baptized will not receive it”?
- Say that baptism is unnecessary because your father got a new car w/o getting wet?
- Baptism would be saying your grandfather never owned a new car?

Relation To **Salvation**,

Mk.16:16

- What kind of salvation?
- “Baptism is *figurative* salvation”
 - **BUT** baptism **is joined to** belief
 - Mk.10:26, etc.

Ac.14:17, door of faith – a figure.

Is faith unnecessary?

Does faith save figuratively?

III. Relation To **Sins**, Ac.2:38

Forgiveness of sins –

- Mt.26:28, **blood** of Jesus (alone?)
- Lk.3:3, **baptism** of John
 - Lk.7:29-30, neglect John's baptism = reject counsel of God (Hb.2:3)
- Lk.24:47, **repentance & forgiveness**
- Ac.2:38, **repentance and baptism**
- Ac.10:43, **faith & forgiveness**

Relation To **Sins**, Ac.2:38

- *Jesus: the Great Physician*
- *His **blood**: the great cure (Mt.26:28)*
- *His **orders**: faith, repentance, baptism...the medicine (Ac.2:37-38)*

His blood forgives sins when sinners follow the Doctor's orders

Relation To **Sins**, Ac.2:38

- Dr. to patient with arthritis: “Go to Hot Springs, drink mineral waters and bathe in them for the removal of your pains and you will enjoy good health.” Would the patient:
 - Go because he is **already cured**?
 - Assume cure is in the **drinking, not the bathing**?

Forgiveness, Mt.26:28; Ac.2:38

BLOOD

BAPTISM

“FOR
FORGIVENESS
OF SINS”

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graph LR; A[BLOOD] -- red line --> C["FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS"]; B[BAPTISM] -- blue line --> C;
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Washing away sins, Ac.22:16

- Saul already believed and repented, but still had sins
- **“Washing”** recalls water in other cleansings –
 - 2 K.5, Naaman
 - Jn.9:7,11,15, blind man
 - Ep.5:26, us

IV. Relation To **Death** Of Christ, Ro.6:3-4

- “To be **baptized** [into Christ] is for Paul an **involvement in Christ’s death** and its implications for the believer” (Ro.6:3, BDAG)
- **Baptism** “into the death of Christ **for the appropriation of its full benefit**, viz., the remission of sins and reconciliation with God” (Schaff)
- Many others...

V. Relation To **Works**, Tit.3:5

- Typical charge: “**baptism is salvation by works**”
- There is a difference in works of man’s **own** righteousness and works of righteousness that **God** requires (Tit.3:5)

Which Is True?

God saved us

Not by
Works in
Righteousness
Washing of
Regeneration
(baptism)

But by . . .

??

Not by
Works in
Righteousness

But by . . .
**Washing of
Regeneration**

The Laver, Tit.3:5

- Tit.3:5, He saved us through the washing (**laver**) of regeneration (ASV ftnt.)
- “*through the water of rebirth*” (NRSV)
- “*through the bath of regeneration*”
– Williams; Goodspeed (Baptists)
- “*the bath that brings about regeneration Tit 3:5*” – BDAG
- “The father has begotten you by the washing” – Ambrose (Spicq)

Conclusion

- Does purpose matter?

1 Co.11:20, proper elements, right action, but not Lord's supper

Ac.19:1-7, proper element, right action, but not Lord's baptism

- Not enough to say, "I was baptized"

Purpose matters to the Lord