

Authority – Becoming a Christian

I. Examination of Mt.28:19

Mt.28:16-20 – Context

16: twelve . . . now eleven. Galilee, 7, 10

17a: worshipped Him . . . (as women, v.9)

17b: some doubted.

- Two from Emmaus, Lk.24:16...31
- Honesty of one: Thomas, Jn.20:24...
- Five hundred at once, 1 Co.15:6 (Mt.28?)

After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep – NASB

Mt.28:16-20 – Context

18a: *all authority*: (heaven + earth)

- Lord has right to command
- Command (authority) not from man
- Baptism is ‘heaven’s idea’
 - Jesus had authority on earth, Mt.7:29
 - Expanded to universal (all) authority – heaven and earth [universal]

18b: *has been given*: anticipates coronation at Father’s right hand, Ac.2:...33-36

- He delegates authority to apostles (19:28)

Mt.28:16-20 – Context

19: make disciples of all nations

- Disciple: one who stands in relation to another as pupil
- Disciples impart instruction in way of salvation
- Discipleship requires two duties –
 1. baptism
 2. teaching

1. Baptizing them

- Immersion, Ro.6:4
 - Sprinkling / pouring are human inventions that began years later.
- Baptism was administered by men (therefore, in water).
- Purpose of baptism: disciples make disciples by baptism.

1. Baptizing them

- NT uses *'disciple'* as t.t. for *Christian . . .*
- Disciples of John, Mt.9:14
- Disciples of Pharisees, Mt.22:15-16
- Disciples of Moses, Jn.9:28
- Disciples of Jesus, Jn.8:31 ...
 - Mt.28:19, make disciples, baptizing them...
 - Ac.19:1, 9, illustrates...

baptism is the point at which
one becomes a Christian

1. Baptizing them

- Baptism is ‘into’ the name of the Godhead (ASV; ESV)

“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

1. Baptizing them

- Baptism is 'into' the name of the Godhead (ASV; ESV)

Late 1800s: Adolf Deissmann found piece of pottery with this phrase: an order to official of state granary to transfer wheat to another person's account – LAE

- Significance: Godhead does not possess anyone until he is baptized into their Name

1. Baptizing them

- ‘Into’ the name of the Godhead (ASV; ESV).

“Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” – 1 Co.1:12.

- “Of”: belong to; ownership

“Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”
– 1 Co.1:13.

- Cannot be Paul’s disciple unless...

1. Baptizing them

- ‘Into’ the name of the Godhead (ASV; ESV).

“All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” – 1 Co.10:2.

- Baptism ‘into Moses’ transferred Israel from Pharaoh’s dominion to Moses’ leadership.
- One solemn act severed them forever from Egypt and made them people of God.
- Mt.28:19... One solemn act . . .

2. Teaching them, 20

“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” – Mt.28:20.

- Baptism is the beginning, followed by lifelong responsibility to grow in the faith.
- “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” – Ac.20:28.
- “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” – 1 Pt.2:2.

I. Examination of Mt.28:19

II. Examination of Mk.16:15-16

Mk.16:15-16 – Context

15a: all the world...every creature. Mt.10:5-6

15b: preach gospel: good news of salvation through Christ –

- Not direct operation of Holy Spirit. Jn.16:13
- Not determined by feelings. Jg.8:11
- Not dependent on personal miraculous experience. Ac.8
 - Simon had no power to work miracles
 - He certainly saw miracles in others

Mk.16:15-16 – Context

16a: “He . . . will be saved” – what he?

- Two conditions: ¹believes; ²is baptized
- General Motors announces: “whoever believes and is baptized will receive a new car; those who do not believe will not receive one.” How would you react?
 - Expect car on faith alone
 - Reject baptism (earning)
 - Argue with the ad (*second half*)
 - Appeal to your father’s car
 - Claim the car unconditionally

Mk.16:15-16 – Context

What kind of salvation?

- “Baptism is figurative salvation”
 - But baptism is joined to belief
- Ac.14:27, Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.
 - “Door of faith” is figurative...
 - Does this make faith unnecessary?

I. Examination of Mt.28:19

II. Examination of Mk.16:16

III. Examination of Ac.2:38

Acts 2:38 – Context

- Remission (forgiveness) of sins [Mt.26:28] –
- He died for all, Hb.2:9.
 - Lk.3:3, baptism of John? (7:29-30)
 - Ac.2:38, repentance and baptism...
 - Cure for arthritis: ¹Drink mineral waters;
²Bathe in waters...

Blood

Repent } for forgiveness of sins

Baptism

Acts 2:38 – Context

- Remission (forgiveness) of sins = washing away sins, Ac.22:16
 - Saul already believed / repented . . . but still had sins to wash away
 - Recalls other washings –
 - 2 Kings 5
 - Jn.9
 - Ep.5:26

Does purpose matter?

- 1 Co.11:20
 - Proper elements, right time, right action, but NOT Lord's supper. Why?
- Ac.19:1-7
 - Proper subjects, element, action, desire sincerity... but not correct baptism. Why?

Wrong Purpose