

BASICS OF BIBLE BAPTISM

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Many professed believers, including some preachers, are drifting away from the basics of the Bible, including the basics of bible baptism.
2. The purpose of this study is to point out, to emphasize, to call our attention to some baptism basics, as to what it is, who it is for, what precedes it, what it does for its recipient, as well as what it does not do, or cannot do.
3. Consider with me the following simple basic bible facts of bible baptism.

II. DISCUSSION

A. BIBLE BAPTISM IS A COMMAND OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. A command, of course, is an authoritative order. Something commanded is something prescribed, demanded; not something optional, or in which we have a choice with impunity, or without penalty.
2. That baptism is a command is evident from:
 - a. Ac.2:36-38,40,41.
 - (1) Note their question of V.37, when and why they were moved to ask it.
 - (2) In response to their question, “What shall we do?”, they were commanded to do two things: “repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ,” i.e., in, or upon the authority of Jesus Christ, V.38.
 - (3) Vv.40,41 attest the fact that those who had ask the question in V.37,believed in the necessity of what the Apostle Peter had commanded in V.38.
 - b. Ac.10:6,33-35,42,47,48.
3. What Bible believer would dare question or dare deny that Bible commands are to be obeyed and for the purpose they are prescribed? Mt.7:21-28; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9; 1Pet.1:22-25; 4:17,18; Rev.22:14; 2Th.1:6-10.

B. BIBLE BAPTISM IS FOR CERTAIN SUBJECTS AND FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

1. It is for those who have been taught the word of God, the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, of which there is only one, Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15,16; (Gal.1:6,7); Lk.24:46,47; Ac.10:6; 11:14; Cf. Heb.8:10,11.
 - a. This rules out infant baptism as a scriptural act.
2. It is for those who believe in God, the Father, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and in the gospel of Jesus Christ, as God's power to save, Heb.11:6; Jno.8:24; Ac.2:21,36-38; 8:35-38; 16:25-34; 1Cor.1:21; 15:1,2; Mk.16:15,16; Rom.1:14-17.
 - a. Once again, this rules out infant baptism as a scriptural act.
3. It is for those who believe, repent and confess their faith in Jesus as the Christ, Ac.2:36-38; 8:35-38; Rom.10:9-17.
4. Thus bible baptism is to be preceded by faith in God, the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by repentance of one's personal sin, and by confession of one's faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Cf. 1Jno.2:22,23; 2Jno.7.
 - a. The doctrine of infant baptism is a denial of the necessity of all of this.
 - b. Bible baptism is believer's baptism.

C. BIBLE BAPTISM IS A BURIAL IN WATER.

1. The N.T. declares that bible baptism is a burial; for when one is baptized, he is buried with Christ by baptism, and/or buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, Rom.6:3,4; Col.2:12.
2. That bible baptism is a burial and a burial in water is established by at least two things.
 - a. By the definition of the word itself, which is from the Greek "baptidzo" meaning "to dip, to immerse," Thayer, 94.
 - b. By the context of several bible texts:
 - (1) Mt.3:16 and Mk.1:9,10 obviously illustrate the meaning of the term baptism to be a burial.
 - (a) What is necessarily implied in Jesus coming up straightway out of the water when he was

baptized? That he had to have first gone down into the water!

(b) This necessarily describes baptism as a burial, rather than a sprinkling or a pouring, harmonizing with the Greek definition of the original term “consisting of the process of immersion, submersion and emergence.” Vine, I, 96; Thayer, 94

(2). Also, Ac.8:35-39 demonstrates that baptism is a burial in water.

(a) “they” – the two of them – the preacher and the one to be baptized, the one who had asked the question – “they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him (as per his request, V.36).” And they came “up out of the water”

(b) This was hardly necessary for sprinkling or pouring! Cf. Jno.3:23.

D. BIBLE BAPTISM WHICH IS A COMMAND, IS A BAPTISM THAT SAVES AND/OR WASHES AWAY ONE’S SINS.

1. The N.T. says baptism saves and/or washes away sins, 1Pet.3:21; Ac.22:16.
2. It is a bible fact that it does this when it is preceded by the faith, repentance, confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ of the one baptized, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38,41.
 - a. “for” in Ac.2:38, from “eis”, “to obtain the forgiveness of sins,” Thayer, 94.
 - b. “for”, eis, denoting entrance into. Cf. Mt.26:28.
 - c. Water baptism from the Gr. term “baptidzo”...” In the N.T. it is used particularly of the rite of sacred ablution ... The word is used absolutely, *to administer the rite of ablution*, (i.e., an absolving, or setting free from guilt, sin, or penalty; forgiveness), *to baptize*.” Thayer, 94.
3. Bible baptism is obviously necessary in order to be saved because it is the final step of faith that puts one into Jesus Christ, where salvation and all spiritual blessings are found, and into his spiritual body, the church, the body of the saved.
 - a. Rom.6:3,4; Gal.3:26,27.

- (1) “To bring by baptism into fellowship with Christ, into fellowship in his death, by which fellowship we have died to sin.” Thayer, 94.
 - (2) Rom.10:9ff – faith and confession are steps “unto”, while baptism is “into”.
 - b. 2Tim.2:10; Eph.1:3.
 - c. 1Cor.12:12,13, to unite together into one body by baptism,” Thayer, 94.
 - d. Eph.1:22,23; Col.1:24. Cf. Ac.2:47 (Vv.36-39,41).
- 4. Bible baptism changes one’s life and one’s relationship:
 - a. From the old man to the new man.
 - b. From a servant of sin to a servant of righteousness.
 - c. From being dead in trespasses and sin to being alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. Thus the simple basic bible facts of bible baptism are that:
 - a. Bible baptism is a command of Jesus Christ that must be obeyed for the reason specified, in the manner specified, when specified, and how specified.
 - b. Bible baptism is for the taught, penitent, confessing believer.
 - c. Bible baptism is a burial, an immersion, in water in the name of Jesus Christ that saves from past sins, puts one into Jesus Christ, where salvation and all spiritual blessings are located, and the means by which Jesus adds the saved to his church.
- 2. On the basis of these simple, basic bible facts about bible baptism, how can any professed bible believer dare deny baptism as a necessary condition of salvation of past sins and the hope of eternal life by the resurrection of Jesus Christ?