

# WHO SHOULD BE RE-BAPTIZED?

Ac.19:1-7

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. There are certain conditions under which a person should be re-baptized and this text is proof of this fact.
  - a. These people had been baptized – immersed in water for a definite purpose as a result of what they had been taught and had believed.
  - b. Yet, under the teaching of an inspired apostle, they were re-baptized.
  - c. Why? What was wrong with their former baptism?
2. According to the context, they had likely been baptized by Apollos, who and taught only the baptism of John, Ac.18:24-19:5.
  - a. To learn a little more about John and his baptism we read, Mt.3:1-6,11,12; Mk.1:1-8; Lk.3:1-6; Jno.1:19-24.
3. John's baptism, though valid and scriptural at one time, had been out of date, and thus invalid and unscriptural, since Great Commission baptism in the name of Jesus Christ went into effect or into force on Pentecost, Mt.28:18,19; Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-41.
4. John's baptism was administered upon the basis of repentance toward God and a promise to believe in Jesus Christ when he should come, whereas Great Commission baptism is administered upon faith in Jesus Christ who has come and is coming again, Ac.19:4,5.
5. John's baptism was not by the authority (or in the name) of Jesus Christ, Lk.24:44-47; Ac.2:38; 19:4,5.
6. Therefore, these 12 Ephesians were required to be re-baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins as per the Great Commission, Lk.24:47; Ac.36-38.
7. As there were valid reasons that one be re-baptized then, just so, there may be now. If so, what are they?

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. THUS WE RAISE AND ANSWER THE QUESTION: IN OUR DAY, WHO SHOULD BE RE-BAPTIZED?

1. All who, like the 12 at Ephesus, were not baptized in the name of Christ

2. Anyone who was baptized without faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Jno.8:24; Ac.8:35-38; Ac.2:22-38; 1Cor.15:1-4; Ac.18:8.
3. All who were not properly taught before baptism should be re-baptized; for one can't be taught wrong and be baptized right as our text proves.
  - a. See Mt.28:18-20; Jno.6:44,45; Heb.8:11.
4. All who were not obeying from the heart, either they didn't understand or were not sincere, Rom.6:16-18; 10:9,10; Col.3:23.
  - a. Some do it to please men – family, spouse, or spouse to be.
  - b. Some for business reasons. Cf. friend of Cliff DeJarnette.
5. All who did not first gladly receive the word as preached in Ac.2:14-41.
  - a. Baptized under pressure. Example at New Port, Ark. of man speaking of Jimmy Allen's tactics.
6. All who had not repented of sin, Mt.3:7,8; Lk.24:47; Ac.3:19.
7. All who have confessed before their baptism that "God for Christ's sake hath pardoned by sins," instead of confessing their faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, the Son of the living God, Ac.8:36-39; Rom.10:8-10.
  - a. Example at Balch, Ark.
8. All who were baptized as infants, while in a state of spiritual innocence, when they were not lost and did not need baptism; for baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is for penitent, confessing, believers, and for the remission of their sins, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38,41; 8:12; 18:8; 22:16; 1Pet.3:21.
9. All those, either infants or adults, who were not baptized in the name of Jesus Christ "for the remission of sins" should be re-baptized, Ac.2:38; 22:16.
10. All who received sprinkling or pouring for baptism instead of immersion in water should be re-baptized; for Great Commission baptism, or baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins is immersion, a burial in water, Rom.6:3-6.
  - a. Sprinkling and or pouring is not scriptural baptism, only a religious ritual or rite.
11. All those who did not first know the truth nor understand that baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is "for the remission of sins," and thus were baptized in ignorance of the command, should be re-baptized, Jno.8:32.
12. All those who already claimed salvation, that they were already in Christ, and were baptized merely to get into or to be accepted into the fellowship of some Denominational church should be re-baptized, 2Tim.2:10; Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27; 1Cor.12:12,13; Ac.2:47.

## **B. FINALLY, WHO SHOULD NOT BE RE-BAPTIZED?**

1. Those who have been baptized according to the foregoing proofs.
2. Those who know they have thus obeyed.
3. Those who thus obeyed and later sinned, Ac.8:13-24; 1Jno.1:8,9.
4. Those who thus obeyed, but were baptized by someone in error.
  - a. Example of my friend E.B.Balch, Jr., while in service, baptized by the ship's officer, who was not a Christian. When he returned home was at first refused fellowship by the brethren because they said he had not been scripturally baptized.
5. Those who once obeyed the gospel then later fell away and entered into some Denomination.
  - a. They need to repent, come out and return to their first love and belong only to the church of Christ.
  - b. But they don't need to be re-baptized; God's second law of pardon applies to them, Ac.8:13-24; 1Jno.1:8,9.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

1. If you are a responsible person in the sight of God and have never obeyed the gospel, you need to be baptized for the remission of sin upon the basis of your faith in Jesus Christ.
2. If you have been baptized and have strayed, you need to return and be restored; but you do not need to be re-baptized.
3. Don't be "almost persuaded," but "altogether persuaded." If you don't obey the gospel, hell will be your eternal abode, and there you will suffer eternally with the devil and his angels as well as all other corrupt and impenitent characters who have ever lived and with all such who will ever live.
4. What a terrible fate awaits you on the one hand!
5. But what great blessings await you on the other hand!