

Doctrine of (water) Baptisms

The first part I will give scriptures that undeniably show that baptism is always to be preceded by or accompanied with repentance and/or belief/faith. And therefore, baptizing an infant is unscriptural as the Bible says that children have no knowledge of good or evil and so therefore they cannot repent, confess or believe (Deuteronomy 1:39; Jonah 4:11).

1. John's Baptism (Baptism of repentance - Acts 19:4):

- Matthew 3:1-5 (Notice vs 2: "Repent"; and vs 6 "Confessing their sins" - IMPOSSIBLE for infants)

- Mark 1:4-5 (Notice end of vs 5: "confessing their sins.")

- Luke 3:3-14

- John 1:31,33 (vs 33 tells us who sent John, vs 31 tells us the purpose of John's Baptism: "that he should be made manifest to ISRAEL!")

- This baptism was the OT Levitical ritual of purification. How do I know? Well:

1. Look at John 3:25-26. Notice vs 25 "purifying" and vs 26 "baptizeth"

2. John was a priest of the tribe of Levi - Luke 1:5. Therefore he was able to administer this purification/baptism.

3. Baptism comes from a greek word and therefore is not found in the OT. But the ritual of purification is found in Numbers 19. Read the entire chapter carefully. Here is explained in detail the "water of separation" which is a "purification for sin" (vs 9). I will not get into detail concerning this ritual but ultimately the baptism takes place in vs 19. Compare with Hebrews 10:22 and now we have the picture. The sprinkling of the water of separation in Num 19 was a **foreshadowing** of the sprinkling of the blood of Christ in our hearts; and the bathing of the flesh in water (baptism) is a **picture** of us now immersing ourselves in the pure water of the word of God (Ephesians 5:26) to purify our flesh and spirit (2 Corinthians 8:1).

- But **historically**, John, a legitimate OT priest, was preaching to the children of Israel to repent of their sins and wickedness (as they had fallen so far from what they were supposed to be as a peculiar special nation that the LORD had chosen unto himself) and then baptizing the children of Israel as an outer picture of what the Jews were doing inwardly in preparation for their soon coming Messiah. John's baptism was not a baptism for salvation, but a baptism of repentance so

that they (the nation of Israel) would be prepared to receive and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ when he showed up - Matthew 3:3, John 1:26-29, Acts 19:3-4

2. Baptism of Repentance done by Jesus' disciples (Same purpose as John's during Jesus' 3 year ministry)

- John 3:22-26 (Notice vs 25, the baptism was an issue of purification for the Jews, inner purification by repentance symbolized by outer purification of flesh by baptism in water).

- John 4:1-2 (Jesus himself did not institute this ordinance by performing it... unlike the last supper).

3. Baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus

- Mark 16:16 (notice what comes before the baptism: "believeth").

- Acts 2:14,37-38, 41-42 (Notice who is the audience in vs 14; notice the crowd is able to speak and respond in vs 37; notice the pre-requisite for baptism in vs 38; notice what the crowd does BEFORE they are baptized in vs 41; notice what the crowd does AFTER they are baptized in vs 42).

- Acts 8:5-12 (notice vs 12: believing comes first)

- Acts 16:30-33 (Notice what the important part is to be saved: Believe!)

- Acts 8:35-38 (Notice in vs 36 the eunuch asks what the requirement is for baptism, and in vs 37 the answer is given! This eliminates any concept of an infant baptism!!)

4. Baptism in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (I wouldn't bother showing this to him because I am not sure that it is even a water baptism or if it is just an immersion of the concept of the Godhead... but in case he brings it up, it is only found once and if it is water, it still leaves out infants.)

- Matthew 28:19-20 (Notice vs 19 doesn't end with a PERIOD. That is important. It is a colon. Because the baptism of vs 19 is tied to the command in vs 20: "Teaching them to observe ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you..." So clearly this eliminates infants. Because it is implied that the person who has been baptized is to be taught to observe all of Christ's commandments and clearly an infant cannot be expected to even understand let alone obey Christ's commands!)

Now those are all the water baptisms that I see in the Bible (and again, I am not sure that the final one is even a water baptism, but it might be.) But to answer his question regarding Acts 22:16, you must first read the ENTIRE verse: "... and be baptized (that is one step, now here comes a separate step), and wash away thy sins (how do I know that this is a separate step from baptism, because the thought doesn't end with a period but he is going to continue the thought to explain how you get your sins washed away:), CALLING UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD."

Make sense?! Scriptural support for the washing away of sins being by calling upon the name of the Lord in faith and not by water baptism is found in:

- I Peter 3:21 (baptism saves us? Yes, but not water baptism, read the comment in the parenthesis!)

- Acts 15:7-9 (This is the council of Jerusalem where the apostles by the leading of the Holy Ghost are determining how Gentiles are to be saved. Nowhere in this chapter is water baptism mentioned. The baptism that is needed is the baptism of the holy Spirit (Eph 1:12-13, I Cor 12:13). That is the baptism that gets us saved and sealed (Eph). That is the baptism that gets us into the true body of Christ (I Cor). That is the baptism that purifies our hearts! (not our bodies) (Acts 15:9) And the way we get it is by FAITH! By believing! Again clearly the important baptism in the scripture is NOT the baptism of water but the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:4-8; Romans 6:1-11 - clearly it is a spiritual baptism because we are spiritually dead; if it were a physical baptism then we would be physically dead!; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:12-13; 4:30, etc...)

So perhaps he might say, well yes the baptism of the Holy Ghost is more important, but even Jesus did not get the Holy Ghost until he was baptized in water. Well... a couple thing to note first before I get into the difference between Jews and Gentiles with their baptisms:

1. This fact is another strike against Christ instituting infant water baptism (since he wasn't baptized until he was 30!)
2. That is probably not entirely true that he did not receive the Holy Ghost until he got water baptized. Note that he was conceived of the Holy Ghost, so the Holy Ghost was probably in him (Mat 1:20). Also seeing that John was filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb (Lk 1:15), I would assume Jesus was also, but it does not say for sure.

But here is the main thing. The Order of the Baptisms was different for the Jews and Gentiles in the early church while there were still Apostles and while the temple was still in Jerusalem.

What was the difference?

JEWS:

1. Repent/Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Get Water Baptized.
3. Receive Holy Ghost by laying on of Apostles hands.

I have three scriptural passages to support this:

1. Jews in Jerusalem and Judaea - Acts 2:5, 37-41 (while it doesn't show step #3 here, it makes it clear that after they believed they got in the water. For all I know, they didn't receive the Holy Ghost until Acts 5:31?)
2. Jews in Samaria - Acts 8:5-17 (Note that they hear the word and then believe, then they are water baptized, and then they must wait until the apostles come to lay hands on them that they might receive the Holy Ghost!)
3. Jews in the uttermost part of the earth (Ephesus) - Acts 19:1-6 (So again they first heard this, and then after believing they were baptized in the water, and then they received the Holy Ghost by Paul laying hands on them.)

We must notice though, that every time this process takes place, it is with JEWS. Remember Romans 1:16, to the JEW first. Remember I Corinthians 1:22, the Jews REQUIRE a sign, perhaps that sign was that they had to get in the water to make a public testimony that they were acknowledging that their Messiah had come and fulfilled the law and they were going to trust in and follow that man the Lord Jesus Christ. The question then would be, does a Jew still need to get water baptized today before he receives the Holy Ghost? And the answer is clearly given to be NO in the book of Romans 10:9-13 (here Paul is talking to Jews). The reason why is because there is no more temple. There is no scripturally correct OT sacrifices and worship being done anymore so in God's eyes the Jews at this point are no better than the Gentiles. Back then, there were Jewish men who were worshipping and sacrificing uprightly according to the scriptures and so God wanted them to partake in a public outer sign to show that they were graduating from law to grace! But now, since there are no Jews walking uprightly according to the scriptures, and since there is no temple, (so the Lord showing that the law has been done away with) there is

nothing for the Jew to graduate from. So a Jew today is to go through the same process the Gentile does, which is:

GENTILES:

1. Repent/Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Receive the Holy Ghost instantly (no laying on of hands, right from God)
3. Then get in the water and be baptized (nothing to do with the Justification of your soul or spirit, but a picture of your death, burial and resurrection with Christ and desire to walk in newness of life with him).

I have the following passages to support this:

1. Acts 10:1-2, 34-43 (great preaching), 44-48! (So clearly, these guys didn't have to get down and pray the sinners prayer, while Peter was still preaching they believed and the Holy Ghost fell on them instantly!!! We know from 1 Corinthians 12:13 that this is what placed them into the body of Christ. We know from Acts 15:7-9 that this is what purified their hearts. NO WATER BAPTISM can do either of those things. Then, in verses 47-48 AFTER they had believed and AFTER they had received the Holy Ghost, they were water baptized!!!)
2. Ephesians 1:12-13 (Show that the key to your salvation is trusting in Jesus! How do we trust him? By believing the gospel of Christ (1 Cor 15:1-4). And then after we believe the first thing that happens is we receive the holy Spirit! We are sealed with that holy Spirit until we get a new body: Eph 4:30. Nothing can break that seal: Romans 8:35-39. Now I know it doesn't say that you need to get water baptized after that, because technically you don't have to, but from reading 1 Corinthians 1:14-16 it is clear that although Paul was not interested in water baptizing, that was not his main ministry, he did baptize some Gentiles (and from looking at their names we can see that they were Gentiles)).

For those who try to say that Acts 10 was a 1-time thing and that water baptism dried up (no pun intended) after that, unfortunately (for them) we see water baptism again in Acts 16 (the Philippian jailor and his household which were probably Gentiles) and in Acts 19 (the Jewish disciples of Ephesus) and in 1 Corinthians (the Gentile believers). So that theory doesn't seem to hold.