

IS YOUR BAPTISM SCRIPTURAL?

Compiled by Bob Young

INTRODUCTION

1. The necessity of baptism is quite clear in the Scriptures...**Mt 28:19; Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 10:47-48**
2. Many religions practice some form of baptism, yet varies as to mode, subject, and purpose
3. The Bible teaches that there is **one baptism (Eph 4:5)**...
4. Several questions: One may have been baptized in some manner...But was it scriptural? Was it the one baptism commanded by the Lord? Might one need to be re-baptized (scripturally baptized for the first time)?

I. AN EXAMPLE OF RE-BAPTISM

A. THE DISCIPLES AT EPHESUS...we have an example of "re-baptism" in the New Testament

B. REGARDING THEIR RE-BAPTISM...

1. They had been previously "baptized"
2. But their baptism was lacking in some way
 - a. Even though it was immersion and was "for the remission of sins" - cf. **Mk 1:4**
 - b. their baptism was not in the name of (by the authority of) Jesus (see below) - **Ac 2:38; 10:48; 19:5**
-- **Because their baptism lacked an essential element, "re-baptism" was necessary!**

II. ELEMENTS OF SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

A. THE PROPER MODE...

1. Baptism in the New Testament was a burial - **Ro 6:3; Co 2:12**
2. The Greek word baptizo means "to immerse, to plunge, to dip"
-- **The Biblical mode of baptism is immersion in water!**

B. THE PROPER AUTHORITY...

-- **The Biblical authority of baptism is from Jesus Christ and no other!**

C. THE PROPER PURPOSE...

1. Baptism was for the remission of sins - **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
2. Made possible by the fact one is buried with Christ into His death when they are baptized - **Ro 6:3; Co 2:12**
-- **The Biblical purpose of baptism is for the remission of sins, to be saved!**

D. THE PROPER SUBJECT...

1. Baptism was commanded of those capable of repentance - **Ac 2:38**
2. Baptism was permitted for those who possessed faith - **Ac 8:37; cf. Mk 16:16**
-- **The Biblical subject for baptism is a penitent believer!**

III. WHEN RE-BAPTISM IS NECESSARY

A. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG MODE...

-- **"Re-baptism" would be therefore necessary**

B. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG AUTHORITY...

-- **"Re-baptism" would be therefore necessary**

C. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG PURPOSE...

-- **"Re-baptism" would be required to ensure we have been scripturally baptized**

D. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG SUBJECTS...

-- **Our need for "re-baptism" would be just as great!**

CONCLUSION

1. Remember, there is only one baptism (**Eph 4:5**)...
 - a. Baptism commanded by the authority of Jesus Christ - **Mt 28:18-19; Mk 16:16**
 - b. Baptism for the remission of sins - **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
 - c. Baptism which is a burial, an immersion in water - **Ac 8:38; 10:47-48; Ro 6:3; Co 2:12**
 - d. Baptism which requires a penitent believer - **Ac 2:38; 8:37**
2. My purpose is...
 - a. to make one's calling and election sure - cf. **2 Pet 1:10**
 - b. to examine ourselves as to whether we are truly in the faith - cf. **2 Cor 13:5**

Because of the many baptisms taught, we must never hesitate to ask "Is our baptism scriptural?" If not, then as Ananias told Saul of Tarsus: **"...why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." - Ac 22:16**