

Answering Objections to Scriptural Baptism

I. Introduction

- A. God's teaching about baptism is clear and consistent. One must be baptized (immersed) in Jesus' name for the remission of sins to be added to His body and receive salvation. **Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; Mark 16:16**
- B. Though God is not the author of confusion, much confusion exists in the religious world pertaining to baptism because of the way mankind has twisted what the Scriptures say. Consider some typical objections to the biblical truth about baptism, and what the Bible teaches in response to these.

II. The Thief on the Cross

- A. Some objections that arise pertaining to the need for baptism have to do with what individuals (like the "thief on the cross") who were not subject to the Law of Christ were required to do. It is important to remember that baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is a requirement of the *New Testament*. **Luke 23:43; Mark 16:15-16**

III. "Christ Sent Me Not..."

- A. Other objections arise from an abuse of a passage in 1 Corinthians 1. Like many passages, if one takes a phrase or two from this chapter, removes it from the context, and "runs with it" in whatever direction the person wants to go, it can seem to imply something totally different from the truth being taught in *context*. **1 Corinthians 1:14, 17; 1:12-13, 15; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3**

IV. "By Grace...through Faith"

- A. Yet another passage that is often (ab)used to deny the truth about baptism is the apostle Paul's statement, "by grace are ye saved through faith." **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- B. While this verse shows us that we cannot earn salvation, it does *not* say that God doesn't require anything of us in order to receive the gift of salvation. **Hebrews 5:9**
- C. Moreover, the faith through which we are saved does not negate the need for works of obedience, such as baptism, in order to be saved. **Philippians 2:12; James 2:24**

V. Immersion vs. Sprinkling

- A. Some might accept the need for some type of "baptism," but deny the need for immersion in water, perhaps esteeming sprinkling or pouring as "just as good."
- B. Yet, the words for baptism and baptized (*baptisma* and *baptizo*) denote immersion. This is exemplified with the Ethiopian treasurer. **Acts 8:38**
- C. Baptism by immersion is connected to the central theme of the Gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. **Romans 6:4-6**

VI. Baptism's Purpose

- A. Many in the religious world accept the need for immersion in water, but assign some purpose to it other than the remission of sins. For instance, the view that one is "saved, and then baptized" is not supported by Scripture. **Acts 2:38**
- B. God's Word leaves no doubt that baptism for the remission of sins is essential for one to get into Christ, and thereby receive salvation. May we accept, submit to, and be grounded in this truth, no matter what errors are taught in the religious world around us.