

The Grace of God



"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us..." (Titus 2:11-12).

July 22, 2007 (Vol. 7)

Baptist Baptism Sermon

dwh

A Christian gave me copy of a sermon on baptism from a Baptist church. In the interest of Truth I wanted to share some of the highlights. The bold faced numbers are added by me.

"(1) There are only two baptisms we read of in the scriptures and (2) only two that will take place in your life. (3) One is at salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At the moment of salvation occurs the Holy Spirit indwells us. (4) ...The second one is water baptism. It is a symbolic act that identifies one with Christ. It doesn't wash away dirt, filth or anything else."

Reply: (1) There are **more** than two baptisms in the New Testament. There was the baptism of John, which was distinct from the baptism of Christ (Luke 3:2-3; Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7). There was Christ's baptism in suffering by being crucified (Matt. 20:22). There was Holy Spirit Baptism and baptism in fire (judgment) (Luke 3:16-17). There was another baptism in suffering that Paul referred to (1 Cor. 15:29-30). So that is at least six baptisms mentioned.

(2) How many baptisms apply to us today? Ephesians 4:4 says there is "**one** baptism". As to which it is, this will be plain in examining the next few points.

(3) While one baptism is at salvation (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16), it is not Holy Spirit baptism. Holy Spirit baptism was specifically applied to the apostles (cp. Luke 3:2-3; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:2, 4-5, 8; 2:1-4). Peter even explains what it was proof of (Acts 2:16-21). It was proof to the Jews that salvation was now available through the Lord (2:17, 21). The baptism of the Holy Spirit did not in itself save anyone!

A second occasion where the Holy Spirit came directly from Heaven was in Acts 10 upon Cornelius and his household (Gentiles) (cp. Acts 2:17). Acts 11 notes that what happened at Cornelius' house was like what happened to the apostles (11:16-17). Notice that the statements here indicate a comparison NOT to what happened to everyone since Pentecost, but only to what happened back at Pentecost. This shows that Holy Spirit baptism did **not** occur everywhere someone was saved, but only on two unique occasions.

This passage also shows that Holy Spirit baptism was NOT for the purpose of saving someone directly. In Acts 10:44 the Spirit fell on Cornelius, yet Peter went on to use this as proof that Cornelius **should be baptized in water**, just like the Jews (10:45-48). What Peter commanded (water baptism) was part of the "words **whereby** thou shalt be **saved**" (Acts 11:14). **If** the Spirit had **already** saved Cornelius directly, why would Peter need to tell Cornelius to do anything **in order to be saved**?

(4) Many teach that water baptism is symbolic of what Jesus has "already done". In other words, they teach that baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace, a public declaration of already having been saved. Yet, we read Mark 16:16, which says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved". Does Jesus say salvation comes before baptism? No. So why do men say it comes before baptism?

As for symbolism, Romans 6 says that baptism is in the "likeness" of Jesus death and resurrection (6:5). It **also** says that it is when we enter "into Christ" and "into His death" (6:3-4). The physical action of baptism is likened to what Christ did, and spiritually we are "united with Him" and His sacrifice at that moment (6:3-5). And if we do not partake of this God ordained method, then we are not yet walking in newness of life (6:4), not united with Christ in His death (6:5), nor in His resurrection (6:5). And if we have not died to sin with Christ in baptism, then we are not yet justified from our sins (6:7). Sounds to me like baptism is important...

Referring to 1 Peter 3:18-21: "*Did the water save or did the ark save the 8? The ark, not the water.*"

Consider this carefully, for it sounds good but is not what the text actually says. "...God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved **by**

water." (1 Pet. 3:20) What was Noah saved by? What does God say Noah was saved by? And yet men presume to reconstruct the Truth in order to support denominational teaching...

Commenting further on 1 Peter 3:20-21, *"Did the water make a difference? Listen to what the water did. The water didn't make the difference that day in Noah's life. The ark made the difference."*

While the ark certainly had a part in God's plan to save Noah, the specified point in 1 Pet 3:20-21 is **water**. To de-emphasize what God emphasizes is to tamper with God's word (Rev. 22:18-19). And did the water NOT make a difference in Noah's life? Without the water, that ark would have just sat there in a world of iniquity. Water was the dividing line between the world that was dead in sin and the cleansed and purified world. The same water that brought judgment to sinners, **saved** Noah and his family.

The speaker also made parallels between baptism and marriage. Listen to what he said: *"Marriage. The day they exchange vows is not the day they made a commitment to each other. The day they committed to each other was the day the proposal was made and accepted. ...Not the day we got together and got married. The contract had already been made. The wedding was just a picture of what had already happened in their life."*

Does the gentleman realize that he just said people are married **before** they are married? And the wedding is "just a picture" of what has **already** occurred? Do you mean to say, sir, that they are **already** married **when** they promise to get married? I thought that was called "engagement", not marriage!

While proposing and accepting are a commitment **to get** married, that is not **the** commitment **to be** married. So, when 15 year olds promise to get married, this means they are already? Nonsense! Teach this rubbish to kids and you'll have them pregnant **outside of wedlock**. Kids don't need any help thinking they are "**already** committed" before they actually get married. Does this gentleman realize the implications of his statements?

He adds, *"Baptism today is a symbol of that marriage that has already taken place in the believer."*

Well now, wish I had known that before I had my wedding. Could have saved us a lot of money... right? Just start living together, because we are already married before we got married. And we can have that ol' ceremony stuff later... right? And this is supposed to "prove" that salvation is before baptism? If a man had a better argument to make than this, he would use it...

He adds, *"Jesus Christ and His blood plus anything else is false teaching."*

This means Jesus is a false teacher: "He that believeth **and is baptized** shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). When a man condemns the Lord, I've heard more than enough. Haven't you?

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Marilyn Langford (foot), **Joyce Gardner** (eyes), **Johanna Fletcher**, **Othena Kinnard** (in Nashville), **Jo Miller**, **Wesley Geer**, **Mag Bumbalough** (Life Care 519), **Thelma Cunningham**, **Mary Cox** (Surgery July 11th), **Monie Petty** (breathing difficulties), **Dave Poteet** (NHC 212), **Dorris Williams**, **Robert & Betty England**, **Joe Smith**, **Mike Tenpenny**, **Thelma Klein**, **Nathan Hill**, **DeLeesa Price** (expecting) and **Alisa Fletcher** (expecting). **Lydia Poe**, **Larry Bumbalough**, **Jake Hale**, **Joshua & Misty Poteet**, **Ed & Carolyn Williams**, **Kenley Streeval & Gabriel Streeval** (White County 125). **Herbie Sims** (Ralph's brother), **Matthew Taylor** (Marci's friend's baby, leukemia).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Door To Door** - Every Tuesday @ 6pm.
- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. Aug. 4th & 18th.
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. July 29
- **GM** - Raymond Castillo, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sun. Bible Study 9 am Sun. Evening Worship 6 pm
Sunday Worship 10 am Wed. Evening Study 7 pm

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