

## THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

INTRO: 1. Baptismal Regeneration: belief that baptism is a “sacrament” that has a mysterious, innate power to remove the contamination of sin independent of personal faith and a voluntary submission to God’s plan of redemption. “A sacrament of the New Law instituted by Jesus Christ, in which, as a result of washing with water accompanied by the words ‘I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,’ a human being is spiritually regenerated, and made capable of receiving the other sacraments” (Attwater, 45).

2. Baptism alone (*baptismal regeneration*) never saved anyone.

- a. “But it’s the only act mentioned in 1 Pt.3:21!” But others require faith, repentance, & conf. Ac.8:12, *But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Xp., both men and women were baptized.*
- b. When baptism is preceded by these things, it introduces the person into many relationships.

**I. RELATIONSHIP TO GODHEAD, Mt.28<sup>19</sup>** Go therefore & make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the H. Sp.

A. What does baptism “*into the name of*” mean?

1. Late 1800s, Adolf Deissmann found piece of pottery w. this phrase; an order to official of state granary to transfer wheat to another person’s account (LAE, 131).
2. “Through baptism εἰς (τὸ) ὄν. τ. those who are baptized become the possession of and come under the dedicated protection of the one whose name they bear” (BDAG, 713).

B. 1 Co.1<sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” ‘*Of*’ = belong to; ownership. *Baptized* = action that shows how one belongs to someone.

**II. RELATIONSHIP TO SALVATION, Mk.16:16**

A. “*He . . . will be saved.*” What ‘he’? Two conditions: *believes*, and *is baptized*. •News anchor reports strange offer: *Fr. Detroit today, Gen’l Motors* What would **you** do?

1. claim the new car on faith alone?
2. reject baptism because that would be earning the car?
3. argue that baptism is unnec.: ad does not say, “those who do not believe and are not baptized will not receive one”
4. argue that you do not have to be baptized because your father got a new car w/o getting wet?
5. fight to receive the car w/o meeting conditions because that would be saying your grandfather never owned a new car?

B. What kind of salvation? “Baptism = figurative sal.” **BUT** bap. is joined to belief! Cf. Mk.10:26, *Who then can be saved?* Cf. *Door of faith*, a figure, Ac.14:17. Is faith unnec.? Does faith save fig.?

### III. RELATIONSHIP TO SINS, Ac.2:38

- A. Forgiveness of sins – Mt.26:28, blood of Jesus – alone?
1. Lk.3:3, bap. of Jn. [7:29-30, neglect Jn’s bap. = reject counsel of God, how serious to neglect bap. of Jesus (Hb.2:3)?]
  2. Lk.24:47, repentance & forg.
  3. Ac.2:38, rep. and baptism. >
  4. Ac.10:43, faith & forg. Great Phys.; His blood (cure); Dr’s. orders. ▪Man suffers from arthritis; asks dr. what to do to be cured. Dr. says, “Go to Hot Springs, drink mineral waters & bathe in them for the removal of your pains and you will enjoy good health.” Who would understand this to mean, “*Go bec. he is already cured*”? Or that *drinking* the water will cure, but *bathing* has nothing to do w. it? Cf. Ac.2:38.

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| Blood . . . for remission of sins (Lord’s part)  |
| Baptism . . . for remission of sins (Man’s part) |

- B. Washing away sins, Ac.22:16 – *already bel’d. / rep.*, but still had sins to ‘*wash*’ away. Recalls water in other cleansings.
1. 2 K.5, Naaman . . . // Jn.9:...7, 11, 15, *blind* man could *see* it!
  2. Ep.5<sup>26</sup> *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.*

### IV. RELATIONSHIP TO DEATH OF CHRIST, Ro.6<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Xp Jesus were baptized into His death?

<sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Xp was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- A. “To be baptized εις Xp. is for Paul an involvement in Christ’s death & its implications for the believer εις τον θάνατον αὐτοῦ ἐβαπτίσθημεν vs. **3b**” –BDAG,164, Ro.6:3.
- B. Schaff: “εις τον θάνατον must be closely connected with βαπτίσματος, baptism into the death of Christ **for the appropriation of its full benefit**, viz., the remission of sins and reconciliation with God. – P.S.” (Lange, X, 202).
- C. Alford: “**were baptized into** (introduced by our baptism into a state of conformity with and participation of) **His death** – 367.

### V. RELATIONSHIP TO WORKS, Tit.3<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Typical charge: “baptism is salvation by works.” N.B.: There is a difference in works of man’s own righteousness and works of righteousness that God requires (Tit.3:5).

#### *God saved us*

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Not by<br>Works in Righteousness<br>Washing of regeneration (baptism) | But by<br>??                      |
| Not by<br>Works in Righteousness                                      | But by<br>Washing of Regeneration |

B. “Washing of regen.” (διὰ λουτροῦ παλιγγενεσίας): the laver.

1. NRSV: “*through the water of rebirth.*”
2. “through the bath of regeneration” –Wms; Goodspeed.
3. λ. παλιγγενεσίας *the bath that brings about regeneration* **Tit 3:5** – BDAG, 603.
4. Spicq quotes Ambrose (d. 397) who “**comments accurately: ‘The father has begotten you by the washing’**” (II.414).

CONCL: Does purpose matter? ▪ 1 Co.11:20, proper elements, right action, but not LS. Ac.19:1-7, proper element, right action, but not Lord’s baptism. Not enough to say, “I was baptized.” Purpose matters to Lord.