

Dan Rouse's notes from Sunday morning, September 7, 2008 on the topic of baptism as an essential ingredient to our salvation.

MANY HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL MISUNDERSTANDING OF BAPTISM

The Reformation heritage of Protestantism is rooted in “sole fide” – salvation by faith alone.

Eph 2:8,9 makes it clear our salvation is indeed centered in our faith.

Baptism, because it is a physical act, is misperceived by many as a “work.”

A “work” would be something you do to earn salvation.

But as presented in scripture, baptism is not a work, it is a response of faith, an act of submission – it doesn't earn anything.

(Any “work” done when you are baptized is done by God. “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Col 2:12 NASB).)

Ex – You are the “10th caller” for a prize from a local radio station. All you have to do is come by the station to pick up your prize.

Questions:

Did you “work” for the prize?

Would you go around saying you “earned” it?

Is the radio station out of bounds for requiring you to pick up your prize?

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE PRESENT AS A BELIEVER'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL?

In determining God's will for our lives there are three Biblical principles that are very helpful:

1. Is a certain action commanded?
2. Are there examples of people carrying out that command?
3. Is there other clarifying Bible teaching on that subject?

Acts 8:26-40

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Vs 35 – Philip preached Jesus to him.

Vs 36 - “See! Here is water. What prevents me from being baptized?”

Vs 37 – belief and confession.

Vss 38,39 – baptized; goes on his way rejoicing.

Clearly, a part of teaching the gospel of Jesus was teaching baptism.

Acts 9; 22

Saul's conversion

Confrontation on the road to Damascus.

Fasts and prays for three days until Ananias comes.

What does Ananias command Saul?

“And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name” (22:16).

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Acts 2

The Jews on Pentecost

Peter's sermon...

The Jews are convicted! Belief is not an issue. "What shall we do?" (vs 37).

Peter's response? "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (vs 38).

Paul's Teaching on Baptism in Romans 6

{3} Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? {4} We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. {5} If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Is the NT clear about the command to be baptized as a response to the gospel message?

Do we find numerous NT examples of people being baptized after hearing the gospel message?

Do passages such as Rom 6:3-5 clarify the significance and importance of the act of baptism?

If men are confused today about how we are to respond, is it because the Scriptural message is muddled?

What more could God do or say to make clear His will concerning a believer's response to the gospel message?

As we close, consider these blessings associated with the act of baptism:

Forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Spiritual regeneration (Tit 3:5).

Clothing with Christ (Gal 3:27).

Identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3-5).

Membership in the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13).

Receipt of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Eternal salvation (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21).

Proclaiming baptism is not teaching "water salvation" or "salvation by works."

Baptism is a believer's response to the gospel of Christ. It is a plea for cleansing and for life.

It is inextricably (*a tangle that is impossible to undue*) tied to salvation by Jesus, Paul, and Peter.

If you haven't been baptized, won't you come in faith this morning to receive the gifts He has promised?