

When is baptism NOT necessary?

(by George Battey)

1st) NT baptism is not necessary if a person lived before the death of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:16-17 (NKJV)

16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

This passage is teaching that the NT is like a will. The will of any man is enforced only after he dies, otherwise, "it is of no strength at all" while he lives.

This explains why the men of the OT did not have to be baptized to be saved. Men like Noah, Abraham, David and Daniel were not baptized to be saved, because they lived before the NT command for baptism came along.

You may recall the thief on the cross was saved by Jesus without NT baptism. The reason for this is because NT baptism did not come into force until AFTER Jesus died. The thief, of course, was saved BEFORE Jesus died.

2nd) NT baptism is not necessary if a person does not have sins.

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 (NKJV)

16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Since baptism is for the "remission of sins" and because it "washes away" sins, anyone who does not have sins is not a candidate for baptism!

This is very significant! Most churches today teach alien sinners to pray for forgiveness. Furthermore, they teach that baptism is for a saved man who has already been forgiven! NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!!!

- (1) *Baptism takes men who are outside of Christ and places them into Christ (Gal. 3:27).*
- (2) *Baptism takes a lost sinner and places him into the death of Christ so the blood of Jesus can wash away his sins (Rom. 6:3).*
- (3) *Baptism in water is the new birth which Jesus spoke of in John 3:5 and without it a man "cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven" Jesus said.*
- (4) *Finally, Peter said plainly in 1 Pet. 3:21 that "baptism saves us."*

3rd) NT baptism is not necessary if the candidate is an infant, or a small child.

Infants and small children are innocent. They are guilty of no sin in the sight of God. They do not inherit the guilt for their parent's sins, and neither do they inherit Adam's sin! Since they inherit no sin, and they have not yet committed sin themselves, baptism is not necessary, because baptism is for the "remission of sins"!!!

Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)

20 "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. ..."

Matthew 19:14 (NKJV)

14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Little children are going to heaven without baptism because they are pure and innocent in the sight of God. Baptism is not necessary for them because they have no sins to "wash away"!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Five steps in God's plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).
- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

*38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and** let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...*

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).