

“Open Bible Study”

Randy Zinn (Pastor of Dustin Baptist Church) will be presenting the viewpoint: **“Baptism in water is not absolutely essential for salvation.”**

George Battey (preacher of the Church of Christ) will be presenting the alternate viewpoint: **“Baptism in water is absolutely essential for salvation.”**

Church of Christ

"Upon this rock I will build My church."

(Mt 16:18)

"The churches of Christ salute you."

(Rom 16:16)

**Good Hope Rd. & Hwy 99
Seminole, OK**

www.WillOfTheLord.com

Message changed weekly

'Bible Talk'

24 hours daily

(405) 382-8200

(free recorded message)

Bible Answers to Bible Questions

Upcoming discussions:

April 10 – *Chad Kaminski* (Pastor of the Allen, OK First Baptist Church) → *"Once a person is truly saved, is it guaranteed they will always be saved?"*

May 8 – *Jim Choate* (Branch President / Bishop of the Seminole Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) → *"Continuous Revelation – does God reveal new things to men today?"*

June 12 – *Jerry States* (Pastor of the Seminole Seventh Day Adventist Church) → *"Is the seventh-day Sabbath still binding upon men today?"*

For up-to-date information visit our website:

www.WillOfTheLord.com

These public discussion will be posted on our website as well as additional articles and sermons.

OPEN BIBLE STUDY

Opening Remarks (Allen Bailey)

Prayer (Darrell Fesler)

Song (Daniel Smith)

1st speaker: Randy Zinn (30 min.)

2nd speaker: George Battey (30 min.)

10 minute intermission

1st Question Session: Randy Zinn (30 min.)

2nd Question Session: George Battey (30 min.)

Closing Announcements (Allen Bailey)

Song (Tyler Watson)

Closing Prayer (Michael Fesler)

Rules of order

- No "Amen's" or other forms of demonstration from audience (please) (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- Only men will be allowed to ask questions publicly. Women must wait till after services and ask privately (1 Corinthians 14:34-35).
- Ask your question and sit down.
- Preachers, please limit your response to questions to 2 minutes.

IS BAPTISM ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL?

Ten reasons why baptism is absolutely essential for salvation.

REASON #1

REASON #1: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is commanded by Christ.

Do we have to obey Christ to be saved?

If you study the subject of salvation by grace and reach the conclusion that obedience is not necessary, you need to restudy your Bible.

Matthew 7

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but *he who does the will of My Father* in heaven.

Hebrews 5

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to *all who obey Him*,

(See also Matthew 5:19; Matthew 7:24-27; John 14:15, 21; John 15:10; 1 Corinthians 7:19; 1 John 2:3-5; 1 John 5:2)

If God commanded something, then it must be done. Baptism is a direct command from the Lord:

Mark 16

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

Acts 2

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; ...

Acts 10

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. ...

REASON #2

REASON #2: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is "from heaven."

FIRST: Consider John's baptism:

Matthew 21

25 [Jesus asked the chief priests and elders] The baptism of John — where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet."

In this passage the word "*believe*" means to "*obey*." In other words, if John's baptism was from "heaven," Jesus would ask, "*Why then did you not obey him?*"

Now: *The baptism Jesus commanded.* Is it "from heaven" or "from men"?

- If from heaven, "Why then did you not obey?"
- If from men, then Jesus was not a true prophet.

But Jesus is a true prophet (Deuteronomy 18:18) – He is the Son of God and He has the authority to require baptism if He so chooses (Matthew 28:18-19).

SECOND: When men rejected John's baptism were rejecting the will of God:

Luke 7

29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, *having been baptized with the baptism of John.*

30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, *not having been baptized by him.*

If this is true of John's baptism, what can we say about Jesus' baptism?

- The Lord's baptism is greater than John's baptism (Acts 19:1-5).
- If men reject Jesus' baptism they too are rejecting the "will of God."

REASON #3

REASON #3: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is how sinners contact the blood of Christ.

Matthew 26

28 For this is *My blood* of the new covenant, *which is shed* for many for the remission of sins.

How does a sinner get this blood of the Lord applied to his life?

Ephesians 1

7 **In Him** we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Q: How does one get "in Him" where there is "redemption through His blood"?

Galatians 3

27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.

Because baptism is when the blood of Christ is applied, Peter wrote:

1 Peter 3

20 ... in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, *eight souls*, were saved *through water*.

21 *There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism* (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Baptism saves us now – because the blood of Christ is applied at baptism.

REASON #4

REASON #4: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is how men "call on the name of the Lord."

Romans 10

13 For "whoever *calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*"

"Calling on the name of the Lord" is connected with salvation.

Q: How does one "call on the name of the Lord"?

A: According to scripture this is done by submitting to the ordinance of baptism.

Acts 22

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

NOTICE: Baptism is how a sinner calls on the name of the Lord.

It should concern every one of us when the very words of Jesus are rejected and then words which Jesus never spoke are believed.

- Jesus never told anyone that faith alone would save them.

- Jesus never told any alien sinner to "say the sinner's prayer" for salvation.
- Jesus never said prayer is how the alien sinner "called on the name of the Lord."

Yet, these are things which people are being taught. On the other hand:

- Jesus did say men call on the name of the Lord when they are baptized (Acts 22:16).

It should concern all of us when we trade what Jesus said for something He did not say.

REASON #5

REASON #5: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is "for the remission of sins."

"Remission of sins" means "forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many *for the remission of sins*.

Jesus' blood was "shed for the remission of sins."

"For the remission of sins" = "in order to receive" remission of sins.

Acts 2

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.

The expression "for the remission of sins" is identical in both Matthew 26:28 and Acts 2:38.

- If Acts 2:38 means, "Be baptized BECAUSE your sins are already forgiven," then Matthew 26:28 means Jesus shed His blood BECAUSE sins were already forgiven.
- However, if Jesus shed His blood in order that men might receive forgiveness of sins, then baptism is in order to receive forgiveness of sins.

REASON #6

REASON #6: Water baptism is absolutely essential because this is how sinners are saved by faith and not by works.

Ephesians 2

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

James 2

24 You see then that a man is justified by works,
and not by faith only.

Here are two passages. One passage says a man is not saved by works and the other passage says we are saved by works.

Clearly there are two different kinds of works under consideration.

- Works of merit
- Works of humble obedience

(a) Works of merit = works done with a haughty attitude thinking, "I deserve salvation."

Deuteronomy 8

11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

12 lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Q: What's the problem here?

A: Attitude!

The only thing that breaks God's heart more than a sinner is *a sinner with an attitude*.

(b) Works of humble obedience = works done with a humble attitude thinking, "I am undeserving of salvation."

Luke 17

10 So likewise you, *when you have done all those things which you are commanded*, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'

Obedying the commands of God with a humble attitude is required – essential for salvation.

John 6

27 *Do not labor* for the food which perishes, *but for* the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

"Labor" = work

"Do not labor for" = means there are works which do not profit to the saving of the soul.

"Do not labor for ... but for" = means there are works which must be done to receive everlasting life.

Baptism done with the proper attitude is not a work of merit but a work of humble obedience which, coupled with faith, saves us (James 2:24).

Galatians 3

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ.

Being saved "through faith" involves being baptized.

Titus 3

5 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,

"washing of regeneration" = baptism. This passage explicitly states that baptism is not a work of merit. Instead, it is a gracious provision granted by God by which our sins are washed away by the blood of Christ.

REASON #7

REASON #7: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it is how sinners are made disciples of Christ.

John 8

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Take this passage and reason backwards.

- Who is made free from sin? → The one who knows the truth.
- Who knows the truth? → The disciples of the Lord.
- Who are the Lord's disciples? → The ones who "abide in His word."
- What does it mean to "abide in His word"? → It means to obey His word.

Only disciples of the Lord are set free from their sins.

Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; ...*

To be a disciple, two things are required:

- Baptism
- Continue observing all things the Lord commanded

Since men are made disciples when they are baptized and since only disciples are "made free" from sins, baptism is essential for salvation.

REASON #8

REASON #8: Water baptism is absolutely essential because this is when one becomes "circumcised" in his heart.

The OT Israelites were rebuked because they were circumcised in the flesh but not in the heart:

Deuteronomy 10

16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

Jeremiah 4

4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,
And take away the foreskins of your hearts,
You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,
Lest My fury come forth like fire,
And burn so that no one can quench it,
Because of the evil of your doings."

An uncircumcised heart is an unforgiven heart. The unforgiven Jew was forgiven when he humbled himself and submitted to the commandments of God.

Today, the unforgiven sinner receives forgiveness when he humbles himself and submits to the Lord's command to be baptized.

Colossians 2

11 In Him you were also circumcised with *the circumcision made without hands*, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by *the circumcision of Christ*,

12 *buried with Him in baptism*, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

"the circumcision made without hands" (v11) – refers to circumcision of the heart when the "sins of the flesh" are cut off by God. This circumcision is called "the circumcision of Christ."

"buried with Him in baptism" (v12) – this explains when the circumcision of Christ takes place. When one is baptized, the "body of sins" is cut off.

"through faith in the working of God" (v12) – when one is properly baptized, he is not trusting in himself to be saved, he is trusting in God. Baptism is an act of faith in God.

"And you ... He has made alive ... having forgiven you all trespasses" (v13) – clearly baptism is the point in time when all sins and all trespasses are forgiven and the sinner is made alive.

Baptism is essential because this is when the circumcision of the heart takes place.

REASON #9

REASON #9: Water baptism is absolutely essential because it puts the sinner into the body of Christ.

The "body of Christ" is His church:

Colossians 1

18 And He is the head of *the body*, the church, ...

The "body" (church) is what will be saved when the Lord returns:

Ephesians 5

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and *He is the Savior of the body*.

In order to be in this saved body (the church) one must be baptized.

Acts 2

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.

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Baptism is essential because it makes one part of the body, the church.

REASON #10

REASON #10: Water baptism is absolutely essential because those who are not baptized will be lost in hell.

The first passage offered to show people will be lost without being baptized is:

John 3

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

In order to enter the kingdom of God, one must be born *of water and Spirit* – one birth composed of two elements.

- One is born of water when he is immersed in water and brought out.
- One is born of the Spirit at the same time because he has submitted to the revealed will of the Holy Spirit by being baptized. (1 Peter 1:22-23)

Q: Is there a way to verify the "new birth" occurs at the point of water baptism?

Romans 6

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were *baptized into Christ Jesus* were *baptized into His death*?

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

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our *old man was crucified with Him*, that *the body of sin might be done away with*, that we should *no longer be slaves of sin*.

7 For he who has died has been *freed from sin*.

According to this:

- The old man is crucified.
- A new life begins.

All this occurs at the point of baptism. This verifies the new birth of water and Spirit occurs at baptism.

Q: Is there a way to verify the "new birth" occurs at the point of water baptism?

Romans 6

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet *you obeyed from the heart* [humble obedience] that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And *having been set free from sin*, you became slaves of righteousness.

Q: What is the doctrine delivered by the apostles? (Whatever it is, when one obeys a form of that doctrine, he is set free from sins.)

1 Corinthians 15

1 Moreover, brethren, *I declare to you the gospel* which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 *by which also you are saved*, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that *Christ died* for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that *He was buried*, and that *He rose again* the third day according to the Scriptures,

The doctrine preached by the apostles is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

A form of that doctrine which is obeyed is baptism. Baptism does not just symbolize the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Baptism is the point-in-time when:

- The sinner actually dies to his old life.
- The sinner is actually buried with Christ – into His death where the blood of Christ was shed.
- The sinner is actually raised to walk a new life.

Baptism is not just symbolic of these things. Baptism is when these things actually occur. This verifies the new birth of water and Spirit occurs at baptism.

The second passage offered to show people will be lost without being baptized is actually a combination of passages.

We noticed the gospel consists of:

- Death
- Burial
- Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Being baptized is called "obeying the gospel" because one obeys a command which resembles the gospel (Romans 16:17-18).

Q: What if one does not "obey the gospel"?

2 Thessalonians 1

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on *those who do not obey the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

1 Peter 4

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of *those who do not obey the gospel of God*?

One "obeys the gospel" by being baptized in water for the remission of sins. If he does not obey he will be lost forever. This is why baptism is absolutely essential.

CONCLUSION

We have looked at ten reasons why baptism is absolutely essential for salvation:

- 1) Because it is commanded by Christ.**
- 2) Because it is "from heaven."**
- 3) Because it is how sinners contact the blood of Christ.**
- 4) Because it is how men "call on the name of the Lord.**
- 5) Because it is "for the remission of sins."**
- 6) Because this is how sinners are saved by faith and not by works.**
- 7) Because it is how sinners are made disciples of Christ.**
- 8) Because this is when one becomes "circumcised" in his heart.**
- 9) Because it puts the sinner into the body of Christ.**
- 10) Because those who are not baptized will be lost in hell.**

Here are ten reasons why baptism is absolutely essential for salvation.

If you have never been baptized properly, you need to be baptized for the right reason (Acts 2:38; Acts 19:1-5).

All Bible references in this booklet are taken from the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1988.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- I do not have internet access and wish to have a CD of tonight's study.
- I would like to have a private discussion about this and other Bible subjects.
- I would like to be contacted when future "Open Bible Studies" are conducted.