
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Does the Bible teach "alien baptism" or "believer baptism"?**

There are two views concerning baptism.

- One view is called "*alien baptism.*"
- The other view is called "*believer's baptism.*"

"Alien baptism" – means baptism is for people who believe in Jesus, *BUT* are still lost sinners. (The Bible calls lost sinners "*aliens*" in Eph 2:12.) This view says that a sinner has the power to believe in Jesus, but belief alone is not sufficient to save the sinner. This view says the alien sinner is not saved by the blood of Jesus until the sinner believes and is baptized. So ... the expression "alien baptism" means baptism is for alien sinners who have never been saved.

"Believer's baptism" – is the idea that baptism is for people who have already been saved. This view says lost sinners are saved by "accepting Jesus into their hearts as their personal Lord and Savior." (What that means is, sinners are believed to be saved by belief alone; they do not have to do anything else.) Once a person "believes" in Jesus (and is saved by belief alone) he is then called a "believer." Then this person is told to submit to baptism. "Believer's baptism" means baptism for a saved person.

Q: What does the Bible say about all of this? Is baptism for lost, alien sinners in order that they might become saved by the blood of Christ? Or is baptism for believers who are already saved and baptism is merely for the purpose of showing the rest of the world → *This person is now saved?*

AN IMPORTANT POINT

In answering this question, there are two important point we must be aware of:

1) "Alien baptism" does not mean baptism is being administered to a person who does not believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

Some people automatically dismiss the idea of "alien baptism" because they think an alien sinner is being baptized without that alien believing in Jesus.

This is not a necessary conclusion.

Alien sinners can believe in Jesus before being baptized.

This brings up my next important point:

2) Just because a person believes in Jesus, this does not mean that person is a "believer."

It is true that the Bible often uses the term "believer" to mean a saved Christian. (See 1 Tim 4:12 as an example of this.) But a person may believe in Jesus and still be an alien sinner. Notice carefully:

John 12:42

⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers **many believed in Him**, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

These people believed, but they were not "believers" in the sense of being saved.

Acts 26:27-28

²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Here is a man of whom the apostle Paul said, "*I know that you do believe,*" and yet he was not a saved Christian.

So person can be a "believer" in the sense of being a saved Christian. But a person can also be an alien sinner and still believe in Jesus.

ANSWERING THE QUESTION

Now ... let's answer the question: Does the Bible teach "alien baptism" or "believer baptism"?

A: *The Bible teaches that baptism is for the alien sinner who has come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Mark 16:16

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

This passage teaches four important truths:

First: An alien sinner has the ability and duty to believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

Second: Faith alone does not save the alien sinner.

Third: Baptism is for the alien sinner who has come to believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

Fourth: The alien sinner is not saved before being baptized.

Think about what this passage is teaching.

Churches which say, "*We practice believer's baptism,*" are actually being a little deceitful. They read passages like Mk 16:16 and say, "See ... this is teaching believer's baptism because one has to believe before he may be baptized." This is a deceitful statement because when these churches use the word "believer" they mean a saved believer, not an alien sinner.

What they mean is: We teach people are saved before they are baptized and after they become a saved believer, we baptize them.

That's not what Mk 16:16 teaches. Mk 16:16 is not teaching baptism is for believers who have already been saved from their sins. Mk 16:16 is teaching baptism is for alien sinners who have come to believe in Jesus Christ and they are now being baptized in order to become saved believers.

The reason this is important is because: Not only must a person be baptized in order to be saved, that person must also be baptized for the correct reason.

- If someone was baptized thinking they were already saved before baptism, they are not being baptized correctly.
- Acts 19:1-5 demonstrates that if a person was baptized incorrectly, they must be baptized again.

Please consider this subject carefully. If you discover you have been baptized incorrectly, we would be happy to study with you and help you obey the Lord in order that you might be saved.

Acts 2:38

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.