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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Would you like to be baptized for \$2,200?**

In order to hear the details of this offer, you must listen to this entire message. We give the details at the end.

This program is a teaching program of the Church of Christ. Our purpose is to appeal to people on the basis of scripture. We are asking, "*What does God say in His word – the Bible?*"

According to the Bible: What is the purpose for baptism? Why should someone even consider being baptized in water?

## **First: Baptism is a command of God.**

### **Acts 10:48**

<sup>48</sup> [Peter] **commanded** [Cornelius and his family] to be baptized in the name of the Lord. ...

Peter is an official spokesman for the Lord Jesus and, on behalf of the Lord, Peter commanded these people to be baptized. The fact that baptism is a command makes it essential for salvation. We are not given the privilege of deciding whether or not to obey commands of God if we want to be saved. To be saved we must obey what God has commanded. If a person has not been baptized, that person is not saved.

## **Second: Baptism is required to wash away sins.**

### **Acts 22:16**

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

The scriptures teach that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed in order for people to be forgiven of their sins (Heb 9:22). When Jesus died on the cross, He was paying the price which sinners owed for their sins. In order to receive forgiveness of sins, the blood of Christ must wash away the sinner's sins (Mt 26:28).

**Q:** How does a sinner get the blood of Jesus applied to his life in order to wash away his sins?

**A:** He does this by being baptized in water for the purpose of removing sins (Acts 22:16).

According to Rom 10:13, "*whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,*" and according to Acts 22:16 men "*call on the name of the Lord*" by being baptized. It is impossible today to "*call on the name of the Lord*" without baptism.

- Before Jesus died, people were saved without being baptized.
- Abraham, Moses, David and the thief on the cross were saved before the death of Jesus without being baptized.
- But after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the command is to be baptized "*for the forgiveness of sins*" (Mk 16:16; Mt 28:19; Acts 2:38)

If a person has not been baptized in water for the remission of sins, that person is not saved.

### **Third: Baptism puts a person into a special relationship with God.**

#### **Matthew 28:19**

<sup>19</sup> [Jesus said] 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,

According to Jesus, people become His special disciples by being baptized into a relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to have this relationship.

According to the apostle Paul sinners are saved by faith, but he goes on to explain that it is faith which expresses itself through the act of baptism. Listen to:

#### **Galatians 3:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Clearly, faith and baptism are tied together. To be saved by faith requires being baptized.

#### **Fourth: There are many benefits of being baptized.**

- Without baptism, one cannot enter into God's kingdom (Jn 3:5).
- Baptism saves the sinner according to 1 Pet 3:21, because, as we have seen, this is when the blood of Christ is applied to the sinner's life.
- Baptism is called the "*circumcision made without hands*" (Col 2:11-12).
- Baptism is the way a lost sinner becomes a member of the Lord's church (Acts 2:38-48). The Lord's church is His group of saved people (Eph 5:23).

### **Answering the Question**

Now to answer the question: **Would you like to be baptized for \$2,200?**

If you have listened to the preceding message and would like to be baptized in order to be saved from your sins, you may leave a message at the sound of the tone and express your desire to obey God. We will then set up a study to meet together and discuss in more detail what you need to do to be saved and, if you're still interested in doing what God said, we will baptize you into Christ.

If, however, you wish to simply be baptized in order to receive the cash-offer of \$2,200, I have news for you. Receiving money is the wrong reason to be baptized. If you do what the Bible says only in order to receive money, then money is your god and you are an idolater. Loving money is called "covetousness" and covetousness is idolatry (Col 3:5).

So the real question becomes: How many people will be baptized because God commanded it versus how many people will get baptized to make money?

- I suspect that if a church really paid people to be baptized, there would be an endless line of candidates ready to get baptized.
- But if the only benefit is salvation from sin and eternal life, very few are interested then.

What about you? Will you get baptized to save your soul from eternal punishment and misery? Or will you only be baptized to make some money.

In conclusion, let me be very plain: The Church of Christ will NOT pay anyone money to be baptized. If money is what you want, then go and get a job and work for your money (Eph 4:28) – because the Church of Christ will not pay money to buy its members.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well ... thanks for considering our message this week. We invite you to visit our website [www.WillOfTheLord.com](http://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*.