
BIBLE TALK

Welcome to "Bible Talk." This week we are discussing this question: *When is baptism wrong?*

Acts 10:47-48

47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

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

The question, "Can any man forbid water?" implies that baptism is sometimes wrong and should be forbidden. The question before us, then, is: When is baptism wrong and when should it be forbidden.

WRONG IF NOT A TAUGHT BELIEVER

FIRST: Baptism is wrong and should be forbidden if the candidate is not a TAUGHT BELIEVER!

In the New Testament the only people that were ever baptized were men and women who had been taught the Scriptures and believed in Jesus as the Son of God.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Notice carefully from this passage that before men and women could be baptized the Gospel must first be taught to them and they must believe it. It would be wrong and sinful to take someone who has not been taught, or who does not believe the Gospel and force them to be immersed in water.

But who would ever do such a thing you might ask? The answer is: Those churches who teach and administer infant baptism are guilty of baptizing people who have not been taught and who do not believe! There is absolutely no Scripture to justify infant baptism. It is totally inappropriate.

- Baptism is for people who have been taught, but an infant has not been taught the Bible.
- Baptism is for people who believe the Gospel, but an infant is incapable of believing.
- Baptism is for people who have sins that need to be washed away and infants have no sins to remove (Mt. 18:3).

WRONG IF NOT BY IMMERSION

SECOND: Baptism is wrong and should be forbidden if it is not performed by IMMERSION!!!

In Bible times the word baptism itself meant to immerse. The Scriptures that speak of baptism make it clear that immersion was the only method preached and practiced by God's people in the 1st century.

John 3:23

23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.

Can you see from this that Bible baptism requires much water? If sprinkling, or pouring were acceptable methods of performing baptism, there would be no need for John to choose a place with much water. Sprinkling requires very little water, but immersion requires much water, hence, immersion is the only type of baptism administered by John.

Romans 6:3-4

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, ...

Bible baptism, according to this passage, is a burial in water. Immersion is the only method that fits this description. Sprinkling absolutely destroys the picture and symbolism of men being buried into the death of Christ.

Acts 8:38

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Bible baptism, according to this passage requires that both the preacher and the sinner walk out into the water. Immersion is the only method that requires both to be in the water. Had sprinkling been the correct method of baptizing, neither man would have entered the water. From this passage alone we can clearly see that baptism is wrong and should be forbidden if it is not done by immersion.

**WRONG IF NOT FOR
THE REMISSION OF SINS**

THIRD: Baptism is wrong and should be forbidden if it is not for the remission of sins!!!

The purpose of Bible baptism was for the purpose washing away sins:

Acts 22:16

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

Again, the Scriptures teach that acceptable baptism was for the remission, or removal of sins:

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; ...

If a person is already saved, there is no need to baptize that person, because baptism is for unsaved people. Baptism is for the removal of sins and if a person is already saved to begin with, baptism would be wrong and should be forbidden.

In the Scriptures we read of a saved man coming to be baptized. We read of one man who came to be baptized and he did not have any sins to wash away and the preacher refused to baptize this man:

Matthew 3:13-15

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Now, can you see what this is saying. If baptism was for saved people who already had their sins removed, then Jesus would have been a prime candidate! John should not have objected if baptism was for saved people.

But John objected to baptizing Jesus because John's baptism was for the remission of sins (Mk. 1:4) and Jesus had no sins to wash away. Jesus told John, "Allow it just this once." In other words, this was the only time in history that someone was Scripturally baptized without having sins to wash away! Jesus was doing this, not to get saved like everyone else, but just simply to "fulfill all righteousness."

So, when a preacher baptizes people who are already Christians -- people who are already saved -- it is wrong and baptism should be forbidden because Bible baptism is "for the remission of sins"!!!