

Believers Baptism

Mark 16:15-16 NIV

- I. Jesus saves, not water baptism.
 - a. He who believes not will be condemned. *The thief on the cross.
 - b. My friend, Craig. Acts 22:16 “Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” *The retreat. But what about Acts 22:16? All Scripture has to be considered and we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture:
 - i. Acts 10:43 NIV “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” *The reason why they got baptized is that they had already received the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. John 3:16 There’s nothing about baptism in there.
 - iii. What do you do with people who genuinely believe in Jesus but don’t believe you are saved enough or in the right way? Romans 14:3-4 NIV “The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.”
 - c. Sprinkling or immersion? We can agree to disagree – the Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint.
 - i. There are no incidents of an infant being baptized in the Bible. *Luther and Calvin – a perfect picture of predestination. I have dear friends who believe this and love Jesus and trust God.
 - ii. Baby dedication – Hannah and Elkanah; Joseph and Mary – the parents decision. *All babies who die go to heaven whether they were dedicated or baptized or not – the age of accountability – Romans 7:9. I believe infant baptism is a strong statement of faith – it’s just the parents faith, not the child’s.
 - d. However, sprinkling versus Jesus is going to cause a problem. *Ron’s salvation and funeral at Dawson Lutheran.
- II. Why should those who believe get baptized?
 - a. Baptism is a public confession of Christ and is very important to Him. Mark 8:38 NIV “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” *I don’t want to do it in front of everybody – its why doing it is so meaningful to Jesus.
 - i. Middle East baptisms.
 - ii. The engagement ring.

- b. Baptism is a physical picture of our new identity in Christ. Romans 6:3-4 NIV “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” *Not just a past event, a present reality – baptisms remind all of us of who we are and what this is all about! Two truths:
- i. Jesus died for us. Believing this gives us the gift of salvation.
 - ii. We died with Jesus. Believing this will give us victory over sin.
*Relational intent – not just Scriptures, our lives. “Those who have suffered in the flesh have also ceased to sin.”
- c. Baptism is a reminder that redemption includes our bodies. Romans 8:22-23 NIV “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.”
*Salvation is spirit, soul, and body – one is immediate; one is a process; and one is a future reality. *1John 3:1-3 NIV “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”
- i. God loves you.
 - ii. He has made you His child because you have accepted Christ.
 - iii. You will receive a resurrected body when Jesus comes again.
 - iv. Even though you don’t have clarity about what life will be like then, just the belief that the best is yet to come purifies you now.