

THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM!

Mark 1:9-11

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord started His ministry by being baptized and the last command He left His church with was to make disciples and to baptize them: Matthew 28:18-20. Since baptism was the bookends of the ministry of the Son of God it is a big deal! Baptism is not necessary to go to heaven but baptism is still a big deal in God's sight. Baptism is not a Baptist idea, it is God's idea! Why is baptism a big deal?

I. WHAT BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES!

Our Lord began His public ministry by being baptized: Mark 1:9-11. The Greek word there was "baptizo" and it always meant to dip or dunk. John the Baptist was the first one to use baptism to show repentance toward God: Mark 1:1-4; Mark 1:9-10. Jesus came up out of the water because He had been placed down into the water. John 3:22-23; Acts 8:36-39. Now why is it necessary to go down into the water? Romans 6:4: we are buried under water as a picture of our death to ourselves and raised up out of the water to show we are going to live for Christ! The early church always baptized by immersion into water!

II. WHO QUALIFIES FOR CHRISTIAN BAPTISM?

In the New Testament without exception the only kind of baptism that was practiced was what we call today "Believers Baptism!" In the New Testament the way you proclaimed your faith in Christ was not to walk down an aisle of a church or stadium, it was to be publicly baptized by immersion. It was always believe and be baptized! Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12-13; Acts 8:36-39; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 16:30-33. Remember, baptism does not save anyone it is only the blood of Jesus Christ that can wash away our sins: 1 John 1:7. A person is never baptized in order to be saved; a person is baptized because they have been saved and they want to show that they have been saved! That is why we do not baptize infants.

III. BAPTISM'S SIGNIFICANCE!

Why was Jesus baptized? Jesus was not a sinner. Jesus did not need to become a believer. Jesus was not professing His belief in God; He was God. The reason Jesus was baptized is directly related to why we should be baptized. Baptism is a means of identification. When Jesus was baptized He was identifying Himself with us and giving us an example to follow. When we are baptized we are identifying ourselves with Him. Romans 6:3-5. Believers baptism is an advertisement that you have personally received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, died with Him and have risen to newness of life. 2 Corinthians 5:17: baptism is an outward picture of an inward change brought about by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? Have you been baptized by immersion after you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? You must be saved in order to go to heaven. You must be baptized by immersion in order to be obedient to your Lord and Savior's command.