

Doctrine of Baptisms – Heb.6:2

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The Meaning of Baptism

Defining the Word

- BAPTIZO (Grk.) = Dip, IMMERSE COMPLETELY, swallow up – Like cloth immersed for dyeing, or a ship sinking
- Often is referred to the ceremony done
 - In the OT as symbolic cleansing
 - Today by Christian churches when one becomes a Christian, in some at birth
 - Difference between tradition and Biblical doctrine
 - In the first 300 years only FULL IMMERSION Baptism was allowed
- In the Bible is used in more meaning than the ceremony of baptism – IT IS PLURAL

The Implication

The 3 Levels –

- Spirit (an attitude, a position and intention) , Soul (a decision, your will) and Body (a manifestation, more than the ceremony, also your actions after it)
 - All levels should be involved
 - Ceremonies have no value except by faith and grace
 - Ceremonies are actions to help us to experience WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE
 - Example of children disobeying and what they must do to receive forgiveness the parents have already given –
 - ✦ Talk to resolve the guilt. Often parents initiate it

A Point of No Return

- SYMBOLIC –
 - A type or shadow that must be rightly applied to different things
 - Nothing magical in the ceremony or the words in themselves
 - What really matters is what you UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE and DECIDE
 - IN BAPTISM YOUR LIFE IS SWALLOWED INTO SOMETHING, IT IS A TOTAL COMMITMENT
 - Mt.20:21-23 – Used symbolically by Jesus
 - It always involves an irreversible, deep change or transformation –
 - AFTER A BAPTISM WE ARE NO LONGER WHAT WE WERE BEFORE

Baptisms = Major Transitions of Your Life

Changes for Abundant Life

- Letting go of the past – Phil.3:13-15,
- The love of God will bring us to a future beyond imagination – Eph.3:20-21

The 5 Baptisms in the NT

BAPTISM OF JOHN OF REPENTANCE for the REMISSION OF SINS

- Mk.1:4 & Lk.3:2-9 - Fruits are required
 - REPENTANCE – (Meta-noia Gk.) = Think differently, changing your mind (not feeling sorry that you are caught, or that now you have consequences)
 - REMISSION – (Aph-esis Gk.) = set free, send forth, forgive
- THE KEY HERE IS THE COMPLETE CHANGE OF MIND AND A DECISION NOT TO SIN
 - Sin is no longer appealing
 - We don't want to do that anymore
 - You may still sin, but it is not what you want

BAPTISM INTO THE BODY, AT REGENERATION (New family)

- 1Cor.12:12-13 – Baptized by one Spirit onto one body
 - It is NOT A CEREMONY, it can involve more than saying the “Sinner’s Prayer”
 - You are a new creature or race - 2Cor.5:17
 - Part of a new family, God’s Children – God is your Father – Eph.3:15, Jn.1:12, Rom.8:16-17, 21, Eph.5:1, 1Jn.3:1-2, 10,
 - You can be grateful towards your parents who gave you life
 - Even more grateful towards God, who gave you eternal life

- **THIS IS A BETTER LIFE**
- You are a citizen of a new nation, kingdom – **1Pet.2:9, 11, Heb.11:3**
 - We can no longer live with worldly values and attachments
- You are baptized = immersed in the body of Christ, you are a member
 - **YOU ARE NOW IN CHRIST**, your righteousness is based on what Jesus did
 - All the Scriptures and benefits for being “in Him, by Him, etc.”, apply to you
 - ✦ But, they do not apply if you walk in the flesh
- You are **COMMITTED SPIRITUALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY**
 - No lone rangers allowed, no church hopping, no doing your thing, but **BEING PART OF, BEING A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING – 1Cor.12:14-27**
 - ✦ With this comes a great responsibility – Our contribution
 - ✦ We are no longer our own, we have been bought with a price
 - **1Cor.11: 29** - Sinning against the Body has serious consequences
- Many believer are not really baptized only partially into the body
 - It is not to go to church and to physically be a member there

Questions to Consider

1. Please explain the meaning of ceremonies in Christianity.
2. Explain the meaning of the word Baptism and its implications.
3. What are the external and inner results of the Baptism of Repentance?
4. What are the inner and external evidences of being baptized into the Body?
5. Why is not discerning the Body a serious sin?
6. What part do you play in the Baptisms?
7. What part does God play in the Baptisms?