

Baptism

Essential for Salvation

Introduction

1. Many people believe and teach that baptism is not essential for salvation. Some of the arguments used to push this belief are:
 - a. “Paul said we are not saved by works (Romans 3:27, 28). Baptism is a work therefore we cannot be saved by baptism.”
 - b. “Since God’s grace is a gift, and we cannot earn gifts, baptism cannot be essential.”
 - c. They make statements such as, “We are saved by faith only,” or “grace only.”
2. During this discussion we will be using God’s inspired word to show how each of these elements (grace, faith, repentance, confession, baptism, Christ, blood, etc.) fit into god’s plan for man’s salvation and that according to the scriptures, baptism is the key point in that salvation.

Discussion

I. Grace unto Salvation

- A. Eph. 2:8, 9, - As read here faith is defined as “*favor specially manifested by god towards man in the gospel scheme.*”
- B. Now that we have a definition we must put the term “grace” into the proper context.
 1. The scriptures teach that we must obey the will of God.
 - a. A gift (or favor) must be received on the terms of the giver.
 - b. God gave Jericho over to the Israelites, yet they had to do certain things in order to receive that gift. Josh 6:2-5
 - c. God give us the food we need for life, but we still have to work for it. Eccl. 3:13
 2. If we do not need to do anything to get into God’s grace, and mercy, why are we commanded to “obey the gospel” as we read in 2 Thess. 1:8.

II. Saved By Faith

- A. Faith only
 1. Many people believe and teach that we are saved by “faith only.” Romans 5:1 is used to support this error. (also Luke 7:50)
 2. Faith is essential for salvation, but by its self it is useless.
 3. For those who say we are saved by faith only, “faith only” is used in the bible only one time in James 2:17. See also James 2:24
 - a. Hebrews 11:1 – defines faith in God’s terms.
 - b. Hebrews 11:4 Describes the faith of Able (in obedience)
 - c. Hebrews 11:7 Describes how Noah’s faith saved him. (in obedience)
 - d. Would faith save these men if they did not do “all that God commanded?” Genesis 6:22, 5
 4. We must not faith to realize that faith was not reckoned unto them as righteousness until after they did “all that God had commanded.” And so our faith works the same way.

III. Saved by Faith

- A. John 3:16 Indeed shows that we are saved by faith.

- B. Faith is necessary as a condition for salvation, not as the only saving force.
- C. Based on the above information we find that there are two kinds of faith.
 - 1. Dead - James 2:19; James 2:26
 - 2. Living faith – Gal. 3:11; Heb. 11:1ff
 - 3. Which kind of faith saves us? John 15:10
- D. As we read in 2 Thess 1:8, all must obey the gospel to have salvation.
 - 1. How many things must we do to be obedient?
 - 2. What is it that we must do?

IV. **Baptism**

- A. Grace and Faith are both based on man’s submission to the will of God. What is the will of God?
 - 1. Jesus commanded Baptism in Mark 16:16.
 - 2. The apostles commanded it in Acts 2:38.
 - 3. We can begin to see a pattern, but in spite of this people still deny that baptism is necessary for salvation.
 - 4. Paul however answers this disagreement in Romans chapter six where he describes how baptism actually works.
- B. Romans 6:3-6. We are buried with Christ.
 - 1. We become united with Him in the likeness of His death.
 - 2. The likeness of his death is baptism.
 - 3. Through that likeness of His death we have our sins washed away by the blood of Christ 1 John 1:7.
 - 4. In being washed by the blood of Christ we are united with Him resulting in salvation.
- C. Baptism puts us into Christ. 2 Thess. 1:7, 8
 - 1. Understand that “into” is very different that “unto”
 - a. Unto is a term used to describe steps leading up to something.
 - b. Into is a term used to describe entering into that thing, much like going through a door way.
 - 2. We hear unto belief – Acts 15:7
 - 3. We believe unto righteousness (righteous are penitent) – Rom. 10:10
 - 4. We confess (Christ crucified) unto salvation – Rom. 10:10
 - 5. We are Baptized **into** Christ – Gal. 3:27

Conclusion

- 1. Do not delay.
- 2. This is the day of salvation.

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