

Water Baptism - Matthew 28:19-20 - August 12th, 2018

- I made the decision to do a topical teaching on the meaning of water baptism instead of our study in the book of Ephesians.
- Lord willing, we'll resume our Ephesians study on Sunday, September 2nd, as I will not be in the pulpit for the next two weeks.
- My hope in doing this teaching today is it will answer the unanswered questions as it relates to what water baptism is and isn't.

1. Water baptism is a Biblical command that we obey once we become a believer in and follower of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Luke 9:23 - Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

2. Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward commitment proclaiming publically, His death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:1-8 – (1) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus (Baptizo) were baptized (Baptizo) into his death? (4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism (Baptismos) 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. (5) If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. (6) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— (7) because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (8) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

- It's important to note that here in Romans the Apostle Paul uses two different Greek words translated as baptized and baptism.
- The significance of these words is one carries with it the idea of being dipped, and the other carries the idea of being soaked.
- By way of illustration, I'll refer to an ancient Greek recipe for making pickles, as it delineates between both baptizo & baptismos.

- Specifically, baptizo meant to dip, was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment that was dipped into the dye.
- Baptismos meant to soak, and was used among the Greeks to describe the ceremonial washings of their articles by soaking.
- Enter our ancient Greek pickle recipe; if the cucumber is dipped, (baptizo), into water then there's no change to the cucumber.

- If the cucumber is soaked, (baptismos), into vinegar there is a change, such that, the cucumber will become a pickle with flavor.
- It's for this reason Paul uses two words in that we're dipped (baptizo), into the water, though there's no change to us physically.
- Conversely, we're buried with Christ through (baptismos), into His death and resurrection from death we're changed spiritually.

- Our old self is spiritually buried with Christ, and as such we become dead to sin in the sense that we're dead to sin's power.
- We're dead to sin's power because we've been separated from sin's power. That's not to say that we will never sin again.
- Rather, it means we've been set free from the bondage and slavery to sin by virtue of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

3. Water baptism is not a requirement for one's salvation such that you don't have to be water baptized, in order to be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 3:3 - In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Romans 10:9-10 (9) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Luke 23:43 - Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

4. Water baptism isn't able to cleanse or remove and sinful habits I may have in my life, it's only by confessing and forsaking sin.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13 - He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

- Here's the bottom line, baptism is a symbol of His death burial and resurrection like a wedding ring is a symbol that I'm married.
- The wedding ring does not marry me, rather it symbolizes that I'm married and so too does baptism symbolize that I'm saved.
- This is one of the reasons some people choose to get baptized more once, in that it's not because they need to be saved again.