

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Answering the Tough Questions”

Introduction

- Paul is our apostle. He is the apostle of the Gentiles (Romans 11:13) and to him was revealed the great mystery of the body of Christ (Ephesians 3:9) and the wonderful blessings that accompany this position in Christ.
- We know from our previous studies the special significance that water baptism held under Israel’s program, but what role does water baptism have in the body of Christ?
- In this lesson we will answer some tough questions regarding water baptism. We will answer them in light of Paul’s teaching to the church, the body of Christ.

Is water baptism commanded?

1. One will search in vain to find Paul ever commanding _____ believers to be baptized.
2. We see _____ instructions at all in any of Paul’s 13 letters to churches and pastors concerning the issue of water baptism. There is a substantial amount of teaching regarding _____ baptism, but not water baptism.
3. Peter ministered to Israel, but Paul is our apostle (Galatians 2:7-9). You will not find Paul making water baptism an _____ doctrine and practice in his Gentile ministry.

Is water baptism the first step of obedience after a person is saved?

1. Faith, baptism, remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit were inseparably _____ under Israel’s program. Mark 1:4, 16:16; Acts 2:38
2. Christ revealed to Paul the dispensation of grace and the gospel of grace that he proclaimed. Oftentimes Paul would refer to it as “my gospel.” Galatians 1
3. Here is an obvious question: If Paul’s commission and gospel were identical to the twelve’s, how could Paul have said that Christ sent him _____ to baptize in 1 Corinthians 1:17?

- The twelve were definitely sent to baptize. Paul said that he could preach his gospel _____ it.
4. Paul _____ teaches the church, the body of Christ, that water baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation.

Is water baptism required for acceptance in a local church?

1. Nowhere is this _____ in any of Paul's 13 letters to churches and pastors, nor do we see Paul model this belief on any of his missionary journeys in Acts.
2. There is basically only one passage that people use to justify this – Acts 2:38-41.
 - In this passage, Jews couldn't be added to the 120 until they were _____ because they didn't have God's Spirit until they were baptized in water.
3. Believers today have the Holy Spirit the moment they believe on Christ.
4. There is only one requirement for acceptance in a local assembly, a testimony of _____ in Jesus Christ. You become a _____ in Christ by faith alone in Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:2
5. Paul said that the Colossian believers were complete in Christ (2:10). How did they gain this marvelous position?
 - Through the invisible circumcision of _____. 2:11
 - Through the invisible _____ of God. 2:12-13