

Series: Baptism - What Does the Bible Really Teach?
“United in the Second Baptism of Jesus”

Introduction:

1. As we have been studying the subject of baptism, we noted two common misconceptions concerning Christ's water baptism.
 - Christ was not baptized according to a New Testament ordinance.
 - Christ was not baptized as an example for us to follow.
2. There were definite reasons why Christ was baptized by John and they all had to do with Christ's earthly ministry and relationship to Israel.
3. So what about us today? What about Gentiles living in this dispensation of grace? Does Christ's baptism have any effect or impact on us?
4. Did you know Christ experienced a second baptism that does impact us greatly?
 - **Luke 12:50** - Christ had already been baptized in water. This was a future baptism.
 - **Mark 10:38-39** - Clearly this is a reference to His death on the cross.
 - Christ was baptized in **water** at the beginning of His earthly ministry, but was baptized into **death** at the end of His earthly ministry.
5. Every believer in the body of Christ is identified in Christ's second baptism into death. We, too, are baptized into death, Christ's death! **Romans 6:3**
6. Let's examine this baptism into death in the Scriptures.

This baptism places you into spiritual union with Christ.

1. **Romans 6:3-5** is very clear. The baptism Paul is speaking about results in a spiritual union and oneness with Jesus Christ.
2. There is a complete change of identification here. No longer does God see me in my sins, but rather in His Son.
 - Christ died unto sin on the cross (**Romans 6:10**) and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (**Hebrews 9:26**).
 - This baptism causes God to see me dead **with Christ** on the cross (**Romans 6:3, 6, 8, 11**).
3. God views everything in light of the cross.
 - He sees you baptized into the death of Christ, and therefore free from sin (**Romans 6:7**) or
 - He views you in your sins and out of Christ.
4. Paul said in **Galatians 2:20**, *"I am crucified with Christ..."* This is God's view of the Christian. How do we get into this position? **Romans 6:4** says *"by baptism."*
5. If this is speaking of water baptism, we have a serious problem.
 - This would mean that believers who were never water baptized would **not** be united with Christ's death and therefore still be in their sins.
 - This would mean that unbelievers who had submitted to water baptism **were** united with Christ.
 - Bottom line - if Romans 6 is water baptism, it would teach baptismal regeneration (salvation by baptism).
6. Do you see the mess that is created when you fail to rightly divide God's Word? The answer to this dilemma is found in our next point.

This baptism is performed by God the Holy Spirit.

1. There are a host of different kinds of baptisms in the Bible. We already saw two in the life of Christ. There are many others - some completely dry baptisms.
1 Corinthians 10:1; cf. Hebrews 11:29; Psalm 66:6; Exodus 14:22, 15:19
2. One of those baptisms is explained in **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**. This will shed great light on which baptism places us into union with Jesus Christ as **Romans 6:3** teaches.
 - There is one body of Christ. vs. 12
 - You get into this body by Holy Spirit baptism. vs. 13
 - This baptism by the Holy Spirit makes us members of Christ's body. vs. 14, 27
3. Do you see any water in this text? No. In fact, if there **were** water, it would contradict what Paul said in this same letter when he did discuss water baptism. 1:14, 17
4. The baptism in **1 Corinthians 12:13** isn't a baptism performed by Paul or any other man. This is a spiritual baptism by God the Holy Spirit which places a person into spiritual union with Jesus Christ.
5. We know it is a non-physical, spiritual baptism because **Galatians 3:27-28** teaches that this baptism does away with physical, racial, and sexual distinctions. Water baptism obviously doesn't do this.

This baptism guarantees your resurrection with Christ.

1. The clear teaching of Romans 6 is this: If you have not been baptized into Christ's death, you cannot possibly possess His resurrection life. Notice the order in verses 3 & 4.
 - We are united in Christ's death and burial, therefore we now possess newness of life.
 - Notice verse 5 - no death, no resurrection life. cf. **Colossians 2:12**
 - Notice verse 8 and the conditional word "if" - if we are united with Christ in His death, we shall live with Him. cf. **Colossians 3:3-4**
2. God's Word is clear. If a person has **not** been united with Christ in His death, that person **cannot** possess the resurrection life of Christ. If a person does **not** possess the life of Christ, that person is **lost** in his sins. **Romans 8:9-11**
3. Again, if Romans 6 is speaking of water baptism, then it would be teaching that a person must be water baptized before he can receive Christ's life. This would contradict Paul's clear teaching that salvation is solely by God's grace, without works. **Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5, 24**

This baptism is done in response to your faith in Christ.

1. We've learned that God the Holy Spirit is the baptizer. He baptizes us into a spiritual union with Jesus Christ. This baptism unites us with Christ in His death, and then imparts unto us resurrection life.
2. What sets this glorious baptism by God's Holy Spirit in motion? Does it occur when we join the church? When we perform a religious ritual or ceremony? When we do enough good works to earn it? When the preacher prays for us?
3. What does Paul teach the church, the body of Christ?

- God's Holy Spirit enters into our hearts and brings God's life in response to one thing, our faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:12-13, 2:5, 8-9; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 5:1, 5; 2 Corinthians 1:21-24; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:9-10

In Conclusion:

1. There is one baptism that places you into the one body - the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:4-5
2. We have seen clearly that Paul taught the church that this baptism is the baptism by God's Holy Spirit.
3. Many people have been baptized with water many different times in many different churches, yet they are still lost in their sins.
4. A water ceremony cannot place you into Christ and unite you in His death, burial, and resurrection. Only God's Holy Spirit can do this in response to your faith in the complete and finished work of Jesus Christ for sin.