

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Water Baptism After Paul” – Part 3

Introduction

- Paul was not one of the _____ apostles, but received a special commission by direct revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven.
- Do we see water baptism associated at all with Paul’s distinct message and ministry? What role did it play in Paul’s ministry? Last week we began to do a Biblical overview of Paul’s ministry in order to get answers to these questions. We examined his salvation, first and second missionary journeys, as well as the Jerusalem Council in between.

Paul’s third missionary journey

1. Just like Paul’s first missionary journey, Paul is not seen practicing water baptism on this missionary journey, with but one exception.
2. In Acts 19:1-7, Paul enters Ephesus. A few things to note about this text:
 - This involves twelve _____ men that had already believed John the Baptist’s message that the Messiah was coming. vs. 2
 - These men had been _____ baptized under John’s baptism and message. vs. 3
 - Paul gives these men _____ revelation by explaining to them that Christ Jesus was the fulfillment of John’s message. vs. 4
 - These men are then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - There is no evidence that Paul performed this baptism or required it, but he _____ it.
3. There is no more mention of water baptism after this on Paul’s journey.

Paul’s Acts epistles

1. Paul wrote several of his letters to the churches during the Acts time period. These books would include Galatians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

2. Water baptism is mentioned _____ in these epistles. It is found in 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.
 - This epistle was written from Ephesus during the Acts 19 time period.
3. There was some serious _____ in this church and much of it was centered on this issue of water baptism.
 - Paul thanked God that he himself had only baptized a _____ of these people. vs. 14
 - Paul states that Christ's commission for him was _____ to baptize, but to preach the _____. vs. 17
4. In order to be true to the text, we can only conclude one thing. Water baptism was not an integral part of Paul's ministry or message. The preaching of Christ's _____ work was the focus of Paul's message. 1 Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-2

Paul's post-Acts epistles

1. Many of Paul's letters he wrote after the book of Acts was complete. This would include Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
2. Again, water baptism is never mentioned in any of these letters. Paul's focus is the "_____ baptism" of Ephesians 4:5. This is a spiritual, invisible baptism that is done by God the moment a person trusts Christ. Colossians 2:11-13
3. This divine baptism places a believer into spiritual _____ with Jesus Christ, brings spiritual life, and results in complete forgiveness of _____.