

Baptism. Literal, Figurative, Real

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I. Baptism: A very simple Bible command—Yet a very complex Bible idea

A. Baptism is a literal real thing that is really to be done

Mat 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized...

B. The complex part is that the Bible often uses baptism as a figure of something else

Luk 12:50 But I have a baptism to be (*figuratively*) baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Act 1:5 For John truly (*literally*) baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized (*figuratively*) with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

II. A historical question in Christianity: Is the baptism in Rom 6 literal or figurative?

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

A. *What shall we say then?* —This question refers us back to previous teachings

Rom 5:9 ...being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

B. All who are '*in Christ*' receive grace, justification and life

1Co 15:22 For **as in Adam** all die, **even so in Christ** shall all be made alive.

Eph 1:6 ...he hath made us accepted **in the beloved**.

Eph 1:7 **In whom** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...

Eph 1:11 **In whom** also we have obtained an inheritance...

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God **in him**.

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**...

C. It is not by a literal baptism that you are '*in Christ*'—It is by God before time

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us **in him** before the foundation of the world,...

1Co 1:30 But **of him** are ye **in Christ Jesus**...

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was **given us in Christ Jesus** before the world began,

III. In the context, our literal baptisms are not what put us into Jesus —Baptism is a figure of God having already put us into Jesus

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? ...

Rom 6:3 ...so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus** (*put by God into Jesus*) ... were **baptized into his death** (*put by God into Jesus' death*) ...

A. Going on with '*position*'—We are not just alive '*in Christ*' but also dead '*in Christ*'

Rom 6:2 ...How shall **we, that are dead** to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom 6:4 Therefore **we are buried with him**...

B. From '*in Christ we are alive*' —To '*in Christ we died*'—To '*in Christ we shall live*'

Rom 6:5 For if **we have been planted together** in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:7 For **he that is dead** is freed from sin.

Rom 6:8 Now **if we be dead** with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live** with him:

C. All who are '*in Christ*' and in the position of being dead to sin are freed from sin

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

D. All who are '*in Christ*' and dead to sin shall someday live with Christ

Rom 6:5 ...we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:

Rom 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with him:**

IV. The Bible says some baptisms are not ‘real’ baptisms—Some need to be re-baptized

Act 19:1 ... Paul ... finding certain disciples,

Act 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Act 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Act 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Act 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

V. The Bible describes things that go along with a scriptural baptism

A. Immersion is the proper mode of baptism (*baptismo* means to dip in water)

Act 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Act 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water...

B. There are a few simple things that are required of the one to be baptized

1. The one who is to be baptized is to be a believer in Jesus Christ

Act 8:36 ...the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

2. The one who is to be baptized is to have become a disciple of Jesus Christ

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach (*disciple; enroll as a scholar*) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

3. The one who is to be baptized is to be one who is repentant

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers...

Mat 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

C. The ‘baptizer’ needs to have proper authority to baptize (from a true church)

1. God gave John the authority to baptize

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

Joh 1:33 ...he that sent me to baptize with water...

2. Jesus made a great effort to get to the ‘baptizer’ who had authority

Mat 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

3. Jesus extended the authority to the apostles (and through them to the church)

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...

4. The church now recognizes God-called men—And sends them with authority

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Act 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

5. God’s true church can now be recognized as the church that preaches the truth

1Ti 3:15 ...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

6. Jesus ceases to acknowledge (as true churches) some groups that have left Him

Rev 1:20 ...the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent...or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick...

VI. In fear and meekness, I make these statements about my position on these things

—Since I have no Bible test to know if a previous baptism is a scriptural baptism

—And since I know that some baptisms are not scriptural baptisms

—I ask all (who are not baptized as Primitive Baptists) to be re-baptized

—By this, I feel sure that I have asked some to be re-baptized who don't need to be

—In this I may have at times even been guilty of persecuting those who are righteous

—For these things, I asked God and men to forgive me

—Yet this is Jesus's church — And above all, I want to submit to Him

—So, in my lack of wisdom to know which baptisms He considers to be scriptural

—In fear and meekness, I say again that I humbly ask all to be re-baptized

VII. From the order of steps, it seems that a literal baptism is the entry into the church

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...

A. I tell you that there is a salvation in being baptized and becoming a part of a church

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...

B. I give you New Testament statements that command you to do it

Mat 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness...

Act 2:38 ...Repent, and be baptized...

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized....