

QA: Why Should I Be Baptized Again? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Why should I be baptized again, I've already been baptized in water.

ANSWER: The first time the Gospel of Christ was preached in its entirety was the day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection and ascension back into Heaven. Then people were told to,

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." ... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (Acts 2:38, 41)

Repentance by itself did not save them!

When Philip joined the eunuch's chariot and "preached Jesus to him" (Acts 8:35), the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)

Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:37-38)

Confession, by itself, did no save him.

The Holy Spirit taught the meaning of baptism through the Apostle Paul:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

Baptism is the first connection a sinner has with the death of Jesus Christ. That's why, when Paul "came to Ephesus" and found "some disciples" who had been taught "only the baptism of John" [the Baptist, (Acts 18:25) jtpll], his question was, "Into what then were you baptized?" (Acts 19:3) Only the baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" puts one into Christ, where "redemption through His blood" (Ephesians 1:7) can be administered. No one can claim salvation before being baptized "into His death."

Someone who claims salvation before being baptized, or is baptized for any other reason than to be saved, or has not been buried in the act of baptism, is still in need of salvation through Jesus Christ. When Paul corrected those Ephesians who had been baptized with misunderstanding, "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5). And so should all today who have mistakenly been baptized!

Into what were you baptized?

——- jtpII, August 30, 2020