

But I've Already Been Baptized!

Ponder: What is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5?

Scripture: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5 NKJV).

As we teach people about the New Testament pattern for salvation, we come to the subject of baptism. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). We are not surprised, then, to hear Peter instruct his listeners to "repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

We rightly plead with people today to receive forgiveness in the same manner. Some respond by saying, "But I've already been baptized!" We owe it to them to help them see whether their baptism was the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5.

Some might say, "It makes no difference. Baptism isn't necessary anyway!" But from Acts 2, when the church began, to the last word of the book of Revelation, there is no such thing as an un-baptized Christian. In fact, in every case of conversion in the book of Acts, no one ever ate a bite, drank a drop, or slept a wink from the time he learned of his need to be baptized until the act was completed. And when Paul encountered twelve men whose baptism was incorrect, he taught them the truth whereupon they were baptized correctly (Acts 19:1-7).

Certainly some matters relative to baptism are of no consequence. For example, who baptized you is not important. Paul was glad he hadn't personally baptized very many, lest they put their confidence in him rather than in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:14-16). Being baptized by a well-known scholar doesn't make your baptism any better than if you had been baptized by an obscure individual. Similarly, where you were baptized is irrelevant. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River; the Ethiopian queen's treasurer was baptized in an unnamed body of water near the road he was traveling. Many pools were available in Jerusalem for the 3000 baptisms in Acts 2.

Baptism is urgent! Being baptized in keeping with the teaching of Holy Scripture is essential! Friend, for the sake of your soul, make certain that your baptism is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5! Stay tuned for more of the specifics.

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