

Baptism attempt into God's Kingdom

The subject of water baptism definitely requires a more complete study due to Catholic sacramental doctrines which have spilled over into various church groups. A more complete baptism study will be on the Articles Page hopefully by the summer of 2014. For this condensed outline we will simply deal with the “Good News” in the Scriptures which by its own foundation is a stumbling block to the sacramental view of baptism. The Good News (Gospel) is that Jesus has saved us by His shed blood!

Yes, it is true that water baptism is very important and all believing Christians are beckoned by the Scriptures to be baptized. But for what purpose? The Scriptural purpose for water baptism is strictly symbolic as an outward profession of one's inner faith after they have been converted out of the world system and into the new life in Christ as a child of God. Water baptism does not “make a person a Christian”, rather one wants to be baptized because they are a Christian. Baptism does not impart the Holy Spirit and it is not the entrance into God's Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit is given into the heart upon hearing the Word and baptism follows afterward. “*The Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word – Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?*” (The apostle Peter in Acts 10:43-48)

Here is the major Scripture truth concept to understand: Because of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden of Eden and our sinning after that same fallen nature – we can do nothing to save ourself back into God's grace and eternal life. This includes making ourself go down in the water thinking that our act of doing so causes God to remove our sins, makes His Spirit fall upon us, and brings us into His eternal Kingdom. Such a belief is a belief of “religion” and is a last ditch effort on the part of man's ego to insist that “self” can do something to help God save us. It can't.

The Scriptures teach that there is no “self act” that can save us no matter how righteous we may think that act may be. Our sins are so dark and have made us so lost from God that only God saving us by His own mercy is able to save us from our **self**-inflicted doom. The “**self**” cannot save us, and the the belief that baptism saves, thinking “**look what I have done**”, is a mistaken faith in the religion of “self”. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,” (Titus 3:5) “All our righteousness are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6) “(God) who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His purpose and grace. --”(II Tim. 1:9) “ – the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Master.” (Rom.6:23) Our salvation is by the shed blood of Jesus Christ on His Cross, death, burial, and resurrection. It is not the blood plus anything else, including baptism. Until a person has fully realized this and has totally given up on the **self** (repented of that idea) they have not come into the Faith no matter how many “Christian things” they may do in their life. Creed doctrines that lead people to believe that *doing water baptism gets you into God's Kingdom* are a “spiritual backfire” sadly keeping those people out of the Kingdom. God's Word clearly says that The Kingdom is given, it cannot be acquired by man's efforts. Jesus said, “*Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom*” (Luke 12:32)

What about Acts 2:38, “*Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins*”? The Scriptures consistently explain that it is the “repentance” and not water baptism that witnesses to the remission of sins. It is trusting the Name of Jesus (Salvation of Yahweh) by faith in His blood, where remission of sins is to be found. “--that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.”(Acts 10:43) “*Being justified freely by His grace – through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.*” (Romans 3:25)