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1/13/2019

## BAPTISM: OBJECTIONS ANSWERED

### INTRODUCTION: (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)

It is clear that Jesus placed both faith and baptism before salvation.

1. Jesus did not say, "but he who does not believe 'and is not baptized' will be condemned"

A parallel sentence: He who sows and plows shall reap a harvest;

But he that sows not will not reap a harvest.

Do I really need to add "and plows not" to the last phrase?

2. Faith is mentioned in many verses where baptism is not mentioned.

If the verses that mention faith, but say nothing about baptism, teach salvation by faith only, then according to the same logic, the verses that mention baptism, but say nothing about faith, teach salvation by baptism only, and that's not a reasonable conclusion.

Observe that all conditions of salvation are not always mentioned together.

3. Paul said, (1 Cor. 1:17) "Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel"

The explanation is in the preceding verses: (v12-16) and Paul did baptize some.

His emphases is on preaching, (v15) "lest anyone should say I baptized in my own name"

4. It denies the power of God to save a human soul without the aid of a man baptizing him.

(Rms. 1:16) "for it (the gospel) is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"

The gospel has to be preached and believed. (Romans 10:14)

The gospel has to be obeyed: (2 Thess. 2:7-10) "... who do not obey the gospel ..."

It is not a question of limiting God's power but following His teaching plan.

5. I heard one say, "Literal water cannot touch the soul."

We are saved by His blood, and it cleanses the soul when we are baptized.

(Romans 6:3-5) "were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death ...

walk in newness of life ... " (v17-18) "you obeyed from the heart

that form of doctrine ... and having been set free from sin ... "

Baptism is not for physical cleansing of the body: (1 Peter 3:21) "baptism ...

but the answer of a good conscience toward God ... "

*element is water*

6. If baptism is essential to salvation, what about un-baptized children dying in infancy?

The Bible does not authorize baptizing babies, infants, children.

- 1) The baby/infant has not committed sin: (James 4:17; 1 John 3:4; Ecc. 7:29; Ezekiel 28:15-16)

- 2) God does not give a newborn baby a depraved spirit laden with sin.

(Heb. 12:9) says God is "the Father of spirits," and when we die,

(Ecc. 12:7) "the spirit shall return to God who gave it."

From which parent would the supposed "depraved spirit" come?

Not the father: (Ezekiel 18:20)

Not the mother: Jesus was born of an earthly mother (Gal. 4:4),  
and He did no sin (1 Peter 2:22).

- 3) The pre-requisites of baptism and requirements of Christian living cannot be obeyed by a newborn.
- 4) Infant baptism was not practiced in the NT church: (Acts 8:12)
7. In (Acts 2:38) the word "for" is the Greek preposition "eis" and means "because of," meaning, that one is baptized because he is already saved.  
  
D.A. Penick, Professor of Classical Languages, U. of Texas, "Normally, 'eis' looks forward, and I know of no case in the NT where it looks back."
8. One says, "We are not saved by works, and baptism is a work of man." (Eph. 2:8-10)

True, salvation is a "gift of God" and we are not saved by works.

"Not of yourselves" - salvation did not originate with us; was not my idea.

"Not of works" - no deed on my part may earn nor merit salvation.

Baptism is not a work of man; rather, it is a work of God.

When we are baptized, God works to fulfill His promised blessings of baptism.

(Colossians 2:11-13) "In Him you were ... buried with Him in baptism ...  
raised ... through faith in the working of God ... He has made us alive ...  
having forgiven you all trespasses."

"We are His workmanship" - when we obeyed the gospel in being baptized,  
God worked, and we have no grounds to boast.

9. What about the penitent thief on the cross being saved without being baptized?

The thief had knowledge about a kingdom coming and may have been baptized by John;  
However, for our discussion, let's assume he was not baptized.

A person's will or testament is not in force until after he dies: (Heb. 9:16-17)

When Jesus was fulfilling His earthly ministry, He forgave sins multiple ways:

(Mark 2:1-5) "saw their faith ... Son, your sins are forgiven you"

(Mark 10:17-22) "go ... sell ... give ... come, take up the cross, follow Me"

(Luke 7:44-50) "are forgiven, for she loved much ... faith has saved you"

(Luke 19:1-10) "salvation is come to this house ... son of Abraham"

(Luke 22:42-43) "Lord, remember me ... today you will be with Me"

(John 8:1-11) "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more"

Jesus dies, resurrected, ascends to heaven, and the apostles are the first readers  
of Jesus' testament in (Acts 2). No codicils after the death of the testator.

**CLOSE:** (Hebrews 5:9) "... He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"