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"I WAS BAPTIZED WHEN I WAS A BABY"

(Acts 2:36-42)

INTRODUCTION

Baptism was practiced in the N.T. church:

(Matt. 28:19) "teach all nations, baptizing them" (Acts 2:38) "repent, and be baptized"
(Acts 8:12) "they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 10:48) "be baptized"
(Acts 16:15) "Lydia was baptized" (v33) "was baptized" (Acts 18:8) "many of the Corinthians
Hearing believed, and were baptized"

What is baptism?

Definitions in Greek language:

(Gr. baptizo) - immerse; submerge; dip; plunge; overwhelm.
(Gr. cheo) - pour; to flow in a stream; cascade.
(Gr. raintizo) - sprinkle; scattering something over or on; rain.

Bible description of "baptism"

(John 3:23) "baptizing ... because there was **much water there**"
(Mark 1:9-11) "baptized of John **in the Jordan**. And coming **up out of the water**"
(Acts 8:38) "they went **down into the water ... and he baptized him**"
(Romans 6:4) "we are **buried** with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up
from the dead" (v5) "**planted** in the likeness of his death"
(v17) "ye have obeyed from the heart **that form of doctrine**"
(Colossians 2:12) "**Buried** with him in baptism ... **risen** ... "

WHY WE DO NOT BAPTIZE A BABY (INFANTS)

1. The baby/infant has not committed sin.

(James 4:17) "To him therefore that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin."

(1 John 3:4) "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law"

(1 John 5:17) "All unrighteousness is sin."

2. The baby is not born with sin (theory of "original sin")

(Ecclesiastes 7:29) "God has made man upright; but they sought out many inventions"

(Ezekiel 28:15-16) "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
till iniquity was found in you ... and you sinned ... "

3. God does not give a newborn baby, an infant, a depraved spirit laden with sin.

(Heb. 12:9) says that God is "the Father of spirits," and when we die,
(Ecc. 12:7) "the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

(James 1:17) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from
the Father of lights ... "

4. From which parent would the supposed “original sin” or “heredity depravity” come?

Not from the father: (Ezekiel 18:20) “... son shall not bear the iniquity of the father ... “

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

5. A baby born with “original sin” could not be reconciled to God.

(2 Cor. 5:20) “... we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God”

“Reconcile” - implies a union, then sin separates, and we are to be re-united.

6. Notice God’s view of children:

(Deut. 1:39) “Moreover **your little ones ... your children**, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in ... they shall possess it.”

(Jeremiah 2:34; 19:4) “innocent” (Ezekiel 16:20-21) “... have slain my children ... “

(Matthew 18:1-5 and 19:13-15; Mark 18:1-5; Luke 18:15-17)

7. The baby, infant, little ones, cannot obey the pre-requirements of being baptized.

i.e. trust and obey, repent, confess their faith that Jesus is God’s Son.

8. The baby, infant, little ones, cannot obey the immediate requirements of Christianity.

(Romans 12:1-3; 1 Cor. 11:25, v28; Col. 3:5-10) etc.

9. Christianity is likened to babes, infants, children.

Christianity is compared to the purity of innocent children.

(John 3:3) “born again” (1 Peter 2:2) “as newborn babes” (1 Cor. 14:20) “be ye children” (Matt. 18:3) “be converted, and become as little children”

10. The baptizing of infants was not practiced in the N.T. church: (Acts 8:12)