

TAUGHT WRONG, BUT BAPTIZED RIGHT?

INTRODUCTION

A. John 6:45

As we well know, one must be taught in order to come to Christ for salvation.

B. Romans 6:17

What one is taught matters significantly, for one must “*obey from the heart that form of doctrine*”. That is, one cannot be taught wrong, but baptized right.

I. SPRINKLED, NOT IMMersed?

Some pour or sprinkle water over a person and call it baptism, but that’s not what it means at all. First, the Greek word translated as “baptize” literally means “immerse,” but, without knowing the ancient language, we can still figure it out from context.

A. John 3:23

John needed “*much water*” for baptizing. Why would that be so if all it took was a cupful?

B. Acts 8:38; Matthew 3:16

Two examples of baptism show the subjects going down into water and then coming up out from the same.

C. Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:4

Baptism cannot be likened to a burial if all it takes is a few drops, unless, that is, we are in the habit of burying are dead by flicking dirt on their foreheads.

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II. SAVED, THEN BAPTIZED?

Some immerse in water, but not for salvation. Instead, they call it an act of obedience following salvation.

A. Mark 16:16; 1st Peter 3:21

Jesus said that baptism was a prerequisite to salvation. Peter taught that it saves. This is really straightforward information.

B. Acts 2:38; 22:16

Put another way, baptism remits sins, or washes them away. Arguing otherwise is contrary to sound doctrine.

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III. CONFESSED SINS INSTEAD OF CHRIST?

Some confuse the confession necessary for salvation as an admission of sins, rather than a profession of faith.

A. Acts 8:37

Before Philip would baptize the treasurer of Ethiopia, he had to hear him confess his faith in Jesus Christ.

B. Romans 10:9-10

Paul taught that confession of Jesus the Lord leads to salvation, making it a prerequisite to salvation in baptism.

C. James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

There is a confession of sins that is necessary, but that is for Christians who stray and need to be restored. General context clarifies this.

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IV. BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. Hebrews 6:1-2

Let's not get our baptisms mixed up. This is meant to be a foundational issue.

B. Acts 11:15-16

When Peter defended his preaching to gentiles, he reported that those first gentile converts received Holy Spirit baptism. In doing so, he had nothing to compare to but the occasion when he and his fellow apostles received the same on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21). It was never a common occurrence.

C. **Acts 10:44-48**

Even when this Holy Spirit baptism happened, those who received it were commanded to be baptized in water!

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V. **BAPTIZED OUTSIDE THE BODY?**

A denomination might teach baptism by immersion for salvation, but simultaneously maintain that any church is acceptable.

A. **Ephesians 4:4; 5:23**

Jesus has only *“one body”* and He is the *“Savior of the body”*, not of any denomination made by man. Thus, one must be in that body to be saved.

B. **Colossians 1:18, 24**

The church is the body.

C. **1st Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27**

Baptism puts one into the body, just like baptism puts one into Christ. If one were baptized while ignorant of Christ, would that baptism save Him? If not, then how could one be baptized while ignorant of Christ's one body and still be saved?

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CONCLUSION

A. **Romans 6:17**

What one is taught matters significantly, for one must *“obey from the heart that form of doctrine”*. That is, one cannot be taught wrong, but baptized right.

B. **Acts 19:1-5**

There is biblical precedent for those who were once baptized to be baptized again in order to be saved.