



Water Baptism

Introduction

The importance of Water baptism has been subtly watered down, relegated to the back burner, rendered unimportant and non essential in the new birth process by men entrusted with preaching the gospel. Today's presentation of the gospel of salvation by its contents makes it of none effect as it were. Many having reduced its meaning to just only the mere symbolism of being buried with Christ and resurrecting with him and without really realizing the import of that & thereby doing it out of a carnal ordinance; "to fulfill all righteousness" without the requisite spiritual understanding and faith needed for it to avail much unto them. Some Orthodox Church bodies do it out of mere ritual by sprinkling of water from a bowl, in order to make members for their sect and to qualify them to partake of their Holy Communion services rather than for any deep spiritual significance.

By his grace, we shall look at various revelations and understandings that give water baptism the import it has where heaven is concerned and the need for it to be adhered to strictly in the making of disciples for Christ and the new birth experience

THE MYSTERY OF WATER BAPTISM

QUESTION: What is the essence, need or importance of water baptism? Is it needful? Is it the same as being baptized into Christ or in the name of Jesus Christ as captured variedly in the New Testament?

Why Water baptism?

After one has repented and received forgiveness and remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ by mouth confession, many still find themselves struggling with the attractions/lure of sin in the flesh. For many the fruits meet for repentance are not forthcoming and is a struggle. Why? Because they do not follow up with water baptism due to the lack of importance attached to it both by the convert and the minister of the gospel. It is pertinently required by the true gospel for such an one to, by faith, undergo water baptism, having the understanding of it thereof as a means to crucify the old man destroying its body of sin by baptism into Christ's death and as ye are rising out of the water ye are clothed with a body of righteousness unto walking in newness of life thereafter- realizing that this is a spiritual occurrence essential under the salvation process as the Apostles of old used to do.

Rom 6:3-14; Acts 2:41

Qn: How can you be said to be born a new while still carrying the same old body of sin?

I Cor 15:34-39 (NIV); (so that a new body will emerge)

Vr. 36- What you sow does not come to life unless it dies

Vr. 37 and you do not sow the body which is to be (you sow a seed with an old body) but

Vr. 38- It is God who gives it a (new) body just as He wishes.

Vr. 39- All flesh is not same (even amongst men)

Colo. 2:11 (NIV) In him you were also circumcised, in the

putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, **Verse 12** having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

STATEMENT: Water Baptism is God's way of giving you a body of righteousness spiritually, so that you may be able to receive the spirit of righteousness that Christ gives through Holy Ghost baptism. You cannot put a new wine in an old wine skin or bag. The old has to be done away with in order that you may receive the new body in order to accommodate the new wine that the master wants to pour forth into it. So that it can be retained therein without the risk or fear of it bursting subsequently/thereafter. **Mtt 9:16,17** (Any exception to the rule as it pleases God to do does not necessarily negate this divine order-

Acts 10:44-48)

You don't give holy and precious thing to dogs nor throw them to swine. **Mtt 7:6**

Pure, clean spirits are contained in clean, sanctified vessels of the new body not that of the old. Through water baptism you receive a new body on rising from the water even as the Lord giveth spiritually. **I Cor 15:36-38**

QUESTION: Is it the washing of regeneration? **Titus 3:5.**

Eph 5:26- That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

STATEMENT: When you are baptizing one in water you do so with the word of God. Without the word of faith then it is mere bathing as it were. **Matt 28:19.**

QUESTION: Is water baptism an essential ingredient in the process of being saved? Yes for those that have opportunity to do it.

Mk 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **Vr. 16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned.

I Pet 3:18-21 - the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (how? not the putting away of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

WHOSE DOCTRINE IS WATER BAPTISM?

QUESTION: Is it from heaven or of men? Is it a doctrine of Christ or that of men? Is it compulsory that we should obey it or is it optional or as one chooses? **Lk 20:1-8; Jn 1:33; Heb 6:1,2**

Is it that of men (the church as per a mere carnal ordinance) or from heaven (of Christ, of spiritual significance as per Christ's commandment)? **Matt 21:25; Mk 11:30; Heb 6:1,2**

Water baptism is a doctrine of Christ and all those that love Christ and keep his commandments are expected compulsorily to obey him on its observance. Usually it is due to ignorance that many overlook and shy away from doing it believing erroneously that you can do without it. **Jn 14:15,23**

THE MAKING OF DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Mtt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Vr. 20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

Water baptism is a unifying ordinance in the Body of Christ that identifies those that partake of it truthfully as members therein and disciples of Christ. Without undergoing water baptism or being baptized into Christ you are not counted yet as a disciple of Christ, scripturally speaking anyway. Just as in the Old Testament, if you are not circumcised you cannot be counted as a member of the nation of Israel, but rather an uncircumcised Gentile.

Water baptism is a spiritual circumcision, one done without hands, of the heart and not of the flesh. **Rom 2:28,29; Colo 2:11-14** For your water baptism to be truly a spiritual exercise and not a mere carnal ritual/ordinance it must be backed up with the Holy Ghost baptism subsequently. Men can do the former, while it is only Christ that carries out the latter. **Acts 8:12-13,17-18; Acts 19:1-7**

For you to be called a disciple of Christ you must be baptized into Christ by water baptism. That was how they were making disciples of men, starting from the time of John the Baptist, through the period of Christ and subsequently. **Jn 3:26; Jn 4:1; Acts 9:18-19,26**

QUESTION: Then why should it be different today?

The Disciples of Christ baptized men with water even as John the Baptist did. Although Christ did not baptize by himself as the Bible says yet he did not disapprove nor reprove them from doing so, instead he official commissioned them, before his ascension, to baptize all those that were to believe in the gospel of his resurrection as it were. Christ is the only one that baptizes men with the Holy Ghost and with fire. **Lk 3:16; Mk 16:15,16**

THE PROCESS OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST

Gal 3:27- For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Verse 26- This therefore qualifies us to move on unto becoming the sons of God. How? By receiving the promise of the Spirit through faith- the faith in Christ Jesus. **Verse 14**.

Verse 28- For ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Water baptism can be likened unto a Christian kind of initiation, whereby you are identified, not only by fellow believers on earth, but by the cloud of witnesses in heaven as being for Christ. The water on earth bears witness that you are for Christ too. You are born of water through water baptism.

Jn 3:5; I Jn 5:8; Heb 12:1

I Jn 5:8- And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. (Through water baptism you receive the witness of the water here on earth that you are of Christ)

Gal 3:26,27- by being baptized into Christ, you put on Christ.

Qn: What if you are not baptized into Christ? You are yet to put on Christ as it were.

Baptism, whichever one it is whether water or Spirit, defines or brands us as one in Christ. It is meant to break the wall of partition/separation/division between all men making us one as Christians and no longer strangers to each other and to Christ our Lord. Just as only those that are circumcised are the natural Jews, children of Abraham under the old covenant.

It makes us to be one and the same in Christ under the new covenant, more especially, the baptism with the Holy Ghost. For by this, all partakers therein, now have one Spirit. And that is what makes us one indeed (defines oneness). It is through the medium of baptism that this can be accomplished.

I Cor. 6:16; I Cor. 12:13; Eph 4:4,5

MARRIED TO CHRIST

It is by Water baptism that we get married to Christ. How?

Rom 7:1-4 (vr. 4- Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Qn: How do you die in order to be loosed or made free from your evil husband of sin?

Rom 6:3-11 (vr. 3- Know ye not, that so many of us as were

baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **Vr. 4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **Vr. 7** For he that is dead is freed from sin.

JOHN'S BAPTISM VERSUS CHRIST'S BAPTISM.

Matt 3:11- I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

STATEMENT: John's baptism was for those that have repented while Christ baptism is for those whose sins have been forgiven and remitted by faith in the shed blood of Jesus after repentance.

Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Jn 20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them:

It is where the baptism of John ended that the baptism in Christ Jesus began and will continue till the end.

Acts 19:1-5

When you repent of your sins and accept Christ, you receive remission of your sins by his blood, then you must baptize into his death by water.

Faith without works is dead. By faith you confess, by water baptism you do the works that follow.

QUESTION: What's the difference between John the Baptist's baptism and the Baptism in the name of Jesus. John was only a fore runner, for the main/real deal- Jesus. He was like a directional sign. A directional sign is meant to direct people to a place where the main event is to take place, it is not the main event.

Jn 3:31,32- And when the perfect has come the imperfect will have to give way.

Jn 3:30- He must increase, but I must decrease.

John's baptism was for repentance prior to receiving remission of sins; Christ's water baptism is that of remission of sins prior to receiving the Holy Ghost and power baptism.

John the Baptist's baptism was a call unto repentance, a physical demonstration/symbolism of your having repented. **Acts 19:4.**

While Baptism into Christ is a demonstration of the remission washing away of your sins which was forgiven you when you openly confessed and repented of your sins when you invited him into your heart and confessed your heart felt belief in him with your mouth that Christ truly died and resurrected from dead and he is alive and liveth forevermore. After mouth confession you have to demonstrate same by action.

STATEMENT: The Father sent John to call men unto repentance and baptize them thereafter.

The Father sent Christ to forgive men's sins, remit their sins by his blood and baptize them thereafter both by water and by his

spirit. **Jn. 3:5**

THE SHADOW WATER BAPTISM OF OLD

I Pet 3:20-21.

Verse 21- The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Verse 20- Which sometime were disobedient when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, i.e. eight souls were saved by water.

I Cor 10:1-4- That all our fathers that were under the cloud and all passed through the sea (without exception) were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Not only that all ate of the manna that God sent down from heaven (**Jn 6:31-33, 48-51**)

They all also drank from the same water from the Rock and that Rock spiritually was Christ.

STATEMENT: The Rock signified Christ, the Water that came out from the Rock signifies the Holy Ghost. How?

Jn 7:37 If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. **Vr.**

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.

Jn 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

STATEMENT: In the New Testament time now, we are required to go through the same process, but now spiritually minded (sensitive) How? By being baptized by water immersion and subsequently partake of the Holy Communion of the blood and flesh of He to whom we are baptized into, which is Christ. And also be baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire.

It is not optional but mandatory. Do not be deceived by men, for it is by these baptism processes that Christ knows and identifies those that are his. **Jn. 14:15; Gal. 6:7,8**

A TOKEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The scripture has likened water baptism unto circumcision. And therefore it is a token of that covenant which we have entered into with Christ unto death. The Old Testament covenant making token with God by the Jews as instituted from the time of Abraham, was circumcision, while the New Testament covenant making token with Christ is now symbolized with baptism no longer circumcision. It is the circumcision of the heart no longer circumcision of the flesh.

This means that by our being baptized into his death, we are pledging to serve him as our Lord and master even unto death i.e. we are ready to die for the gospel. Even as death can no longer separate us from his love and covenant of life, but rather gives us the victory of life in Christ Jesus.

By water baptism, we are openly declaring that we are ready to

die for him, come what may. Believing and knowing that if we die for him (with him) we shall also be resurrected unto (with) him even as he did.

By willingly accepting to undergo water baptism, you are entering a covenant with Christ declaring that you are ready to die for the gospel sake and for your belief/faith in him- that is how serious it is. Those that refuse to baptize are those that love Christ with their lips but their hearts are far from him **Mtt. 15:8,9**.

Matt 20:20-23

Verse 22- Are ye able to drink of the cup I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? (Question: Which baptism was Christ talking about? His crucifixion on the cross. Which cup? that of suffering.) They say unto him we are able.

Verse 23- And he saith unto them, ye shall drink indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:

STATEMENT: Every one that is qualified to drink of the cup of the blood of the New Testament must be prepared to undergo the actualization of the symbolism of dying with Christ done during water baptism if need be.

This symbolic gesture may have to be actualized in your life, are you conscious and aware of this? Are you prepared? This actualization of water baptism symbolism is called martyrdom- paying with your blood standing for that which you believe in your faith in Christ Jesus even unto death. **Rev. 12: 11b**

Matt 16:24- If any man will come after me, let deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Verse 25- For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and who so ever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

STATEMENT: Jesus carried his cross unto crucifixion and that is what he demands or requires of every one that shall follow him. Such have to prepare in his mind to go through the same process as he did if need be.

STATEMENT: Many have said that because the thief on the cross did not undergo water baptism, therefore water baptism is not necessary (**Lk 23:39-43**) as part of the requirement to be saved. They err having not the understanding that the water baptism symbolism of crucifixion is meant for those that are ready to be physically or actually crucified as Christ was. The thief on the cross did not have opportunity to carry out or do the symbolism part by water, but he did the actual physical part, crucifixion on the cross instead. This is actually the ultimate or where the symbolism is meant to bring you unto doing one way or the other. **Mtt. 20:22,23**.

Which do you have opportunity to partake of today? Water baptism or cross crucifixion? Which do you prefer?

STATEMENT: Water baptism is your New Testament covenant declaring or affirming act/token stating that you are ready to take

up your own cross and undergo actual crucifixion on the behalf of Christ i.e. that you are ready to follow Christ unto death as need be.

INFANT BAPTISM

Your infant baptism can be seen merely as your parents' way of pointing you even as a child in the right direction, as it were religiously. Majorly most of the churches that practice infant baptism do so as a means of making members for themselves right from infancy/childhood. Your undergoing water baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus as an adult is your own declaration that you by your own accord have made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior and not that someone did it or imposed him on you, unknowingly to you.

Every baptism that a man undergoes prior to giving or surrendering his life to Christ is not acceptable as the baptism from heaven, but that of men. Why? Because Jesus Christ did not command us to do so rather it is men that instituted that. What Christ instructed us was thus:

Mk 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **Vr. 16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Meaning that before anyone is baptized he has to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and believe it first before he willingly submit to being baptized. As it were, infants do not fulfill these requirements before they are baptized.

CONCLUSION: Is your baptism that which is only acceptable to man but not sanctioned by (or does not meet) heavens requirement?

You must repent and receive the remission of your sins from Christ before being baptized. All is accomplished by faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ. Do not ignore or treat water baptism lightly and carnally. It is a commandment of Christ that you must keep, if you say you love him.

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. **MARANATHA.**