Baptism a Requirement for Salvation-Part 1

By Akola Mbey Denis

Baptism is an essential requirement for salvation. 1 Peter 3:20-21: "who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the [a] water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God [b] for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Inferring from 1 Peter 3:21, we can conclude that baptism is a requirement for salvation. Also Mark 16:15-16

Baptism comes from a Greek word "baptizo" which means to immerse. Thayer Lexicon defines baptism as "To dip repeatedly. To immerse, submerge"—immersion in water.

New Testament believers need to be immersed in water to be saved. In Acts 8:36 - “36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” 37 [a] And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’” 38 And he ordered the [b] chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.” Also in Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12, Acts 10:47, all these bible verses talks about baptism by immersion.

Most historians and scholars in the Christian reformation movements, confirms the fact that baptism was by immersion. Martin Luther - “The term baptism is a Greek word, it may be rendered into Latin by meriso: when we immerse anything in water, that it may be entirely covered with water.” Calvin.- The term Baptize means to immerse, and that this was the form used by the primitive Church”. In summary, in the First century church, baptism was exclusively immersion.

It is a pity, many people are hoaxed to believe that Jesus Christ is lord and your recite the sinners’ prayer you will be saved. This a fallacy from the true word of God. Baptism saves. Sinner’s prayer is a man- made doctrine and the bible categorically informs us to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:27-29. It sounds strange to know that some religious sects subject people to molestation in name of baptism.

Sprinkling (Greek word –Rantizo) and pouring (Greek word– Cheo) are used in Hebrews 9:13 and Acts 2:17 and they are both used in a different context and not baptism. Therefore sprinkling and pouring are unscriptural and we will only be perverting the truth about God’s word we improvised or set up our own standard of authority as Christians. These are all human made doctrines.

Though some religious groups gets the concept of baptism by immersion, they dip believers thrice into water. This is always against the bible. Right plus wrong can never be right. In Ephesians 4:4-6 “4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”. The pure word of God teaches one baptism as symbolic of Christ’s death and resurrection. Romans 6:3

If you have been not been baptized, or you have been baptized and it is not in accordance with the baptism procedure specified in the Bible. Visit the church of Christ near you for further studies on
this subject. Do not harden your heart, the good news has come to you today. Get baptized and be added to the Lord’s church today. Acts 2:47. God bless you

References


2. The final word- Baptism by Philip Vanwinkle (Truth for the world).

3. Thayer Greek Lexicon

Akola Denis, Ghana.