Baptism a Requirement for Salvation-Part 2

Who is to be baptized?

In my previous blog post, I looked at how we are to be baptized. In this write up, I shall answer the question” who is to the baptized?”

Looking forward to answer this question, we have to bear in mind that God has given us Bible as our only standard of authority, and we cannot add or subtract from the word of God because judgement awaits us we do so. Revelation 22:18-19.

From the unchangeable word of God, people who fall under the following categories are to be baptized.

1. The lost are to be baptized. Those who have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. These people need to repent, and be baptized. In Acts 2, when Peter preached the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost, and he publicly told the Jews that Jesus Christ, whom they crucified, have being made Lord and Christ, the Jews were pierced to the heart (Acts 2:37) and see what they did. My emphasis is on verses 38 ”Now when they heard this, they were [a]pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “[a]Brethren, [a]what shall we do?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. “ Without the remission of their sins, these people were lost! They wanted to be saved! They were told to save themselves from the” perverse generation.” How? By repenting and being baptized! Other bible passages indicate the same thing. (Mark 16:15-16, Acts 22:16,1 Peter 3:20-21). The Bible tells us that Baptism is for the lost people who want to be saved!

2. Those who have been sprinkled with water need to be baptized! Many religious groups practice sprinkling as a form of baptism. In my last post, I refuted the fact that we cannot find any bible records of this practice in the first century church. This is therefore not scriptural. Sprinkling is not commanded by God. 1John 5:3 – “3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” If only we love God, we should keep his commandments. Obeying God makes it binding on us to let the bible tell us what to do. Since sprinkling is not endorsed by the bible and those who practice it disobeys God, they must repent and be baptized.

3. Those who were baptized under pressure, should be baptized. Some people are always forcefully baptized or are being pressured by others to do so. For instance, sometimes grandparents or parents do put pressure on their children to be baptized. Because of the undue pressure, they succumb to the orders of their parents and they get baptized though they have not been baptized for the right reason. They are not really convicted. These people do not actually understand the pre-requisites of baptism. In order to be baptized

- The decision must be made by the person,
- It must be from the heart. Romans 6:16-18
The person must be convicted that Jesus is the son of God and this/her hope of salvation.

The person must truly and sincerely repent. (2 Peter 3:9, Romans 6:1-2)

4. Those who are baptized for the wrong reason, need to be baptized! If a person is not taught rightly but is baptized by immersion, he is not baptized for the right reason. In Acts 2; 38: “38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” And in Acts 8; 37-“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.”] Peter and Philip realized that baptism was not the only step in God's plan for the salvation of mankind. In fact, both of these men realized that baptism would only benefit those who were thinking correctly. It is for this reason that Peter and Philip took the time to verbally teach their audiences the Word of God. It is the Word that produces faith (Romans 10:17) and it is the understanding of that Word that leads us to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10) and then changes how we behave (2 Corinthians 7:11; Matthew 3:8). God’s plan of Salvation is a stepwise chain of commands and it much obeyed fully. False teaching and understanding will lead to incorrect baptism. The New Testament gives as an example of people who were baptized (immersed) but were not properly taught. They were told to be baptized(immersed) again after being properly taught (Acts 19:1-7). Baptism must be to preceded with; correct teachings, true repentance, the person’s realization that he/she is lost, the person belief and openly confession of Christ then ,he/she is ready to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.

Can we also baptize infants? The bible specifically tells us that before one is immersed, he/she must believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord. (Romans 10:9-10) The question is can babies confess? Can they discern between good and evil? Those who practice infant baptism are of the view that babies inherit sin. They support the theories of adamic sin or total depravity. In Ezekiel 18:20-“20 The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.” The bible in Ezekiel 18:20 disapproves this claim of sin inheritance. There no apostolic example, direct command or biblical inference reasonable or necessary for such a procedure. There is no reason or scriptural backing to say infant baptism is valid.

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