

Baptized, but not...

Acts 19:1-5

Introduction

- **Acts 19:1-5** - Paul meets a group of disciples in Ephesus. They knew only the baptism of John. Paul taught them the way of God more accurately, about Jesus. They were “baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”



Introduction

- As we study with individuals, we often emphasize the importance of baptism. Why?
Because it is a subject misunderstood by so many
- Yet, scripture is clear as to its importance - **Romans 6:3-7, Galatians 3:26-27, Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21, Colossians 2:11-13,...**



Introduction

- At this point, many see the importance of their baptism, and then they declare at some point in the past they have been baptized.
- BUT was that baptism ok? Why were they baptized and how? **This is an important question.**



Introduction

- This lesson is designed to examine TRUE Biblical baptism.
- In this lesson we will show some ways that one can be BAPTIZED, BUT NOT... for the right reason and in the right way?



Baptized, but not...

Baptism is a burial

- **Romans 6:3-4** - buried with Him through baptism

Also, **Colossians 2:12**

Acts 8:36-39, the Ethiopian eunuch



Baptized, but not...

Baptism is a burial

- The Greek word is βαπτίζω, (baptitzo).
In English bibles, “baptize” is a transliteration meaning to dip or submerge



Baptized, but not...

Baptism is a burial

- Many today give one a choice of method - immersion, pouring or sprinkling.
- If baptized, but not... immersion, it is NOT the baptism of the Bible that saves



Baptized, but not...

Baptized into Christ

- **Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27**

These texts show that baptism is
HOW one gets into Christ



Baptized, but not...

Baptized into Christ

- Many today profess, they are saved (by faith alone) and THEN baptized.
- In essence they are saying they are “in Christ” and THEN baptized



Baptized, but not...

Baptized into Christ

- **But ORDER is important!**
Order proves that one understand HOW he gets into Christ.
Grammatically, there is a difference, between “in Christ WHEN baptized” and “in Christ THEN baptized



Baptized, but not...

Baptized into Christ

- If you were “in Christ” and THEN baptized, it is NOT the right order.
- You were baptized, but not...
the baptism of the Bible that saves



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38**
- They were baptized FOR the remission of sins.



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** - FOR the remission of sins.
- Again, the Greek word is important: εἰς (eis) is a preposition that always means “unto” or “into” or “in the direction” of something
Note again - **Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27**



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** – is saying that baptism leads unto salvation.

Baptized  remission of sins



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** – remission of sins
- Some contend that “for” can mean “because of”. But in Greek, that would be a different word, γάρ (gar) which can mean “because” something has happened.



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** – remission of sins
- But also consider **Matthew 26:28** which is grammatically the same as **Acts 2:38**. Was the blood of Jesus shed BECAUSE our sins had already been forgiven or “in order to” forgiveness?



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** – remission of sins
- Notice also, NO reputable translation, uses the words “because of” (except maybe in a foot note attempting to explain away the original wording)



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- **Acts 2:38** – remission of sins
- Denominational baptism teaches:
Remission of sins, THEN baptized
- The order is wrong!



Baptized, but not...

For the remission of sins

- If your baptism was not FOR (unto, into) the remission of sins
- You were baptized, but not...
the baptism of the Bible that saves



Baptized, but not...

With urgency

- **Acts 2:41** - that day
- Acts 8:36**, “see here is water...”
- Acts 16:32-33** - “the same hour of the night”, immediately
- Acts 22:16**, “why are you waiting?”



Baptized, but not...

With urgency

- When we fully understand what baptism, it is not something we delay. We realize we are in jeopardy until we respond.
- Delay typically demonstrates a lack of understanding



Baptized, but not...

With urgency

- Many denominations see baptism as a ritual **AFTER** salvation, thus it is not a priority. A “baptismal service” is scheduled at a later time. This makes baptism nothing more than mere symbolism.



Baptized, but not...

With urgency

- If you did not see a sense of urgency in being baptized
- You were baptized, but not... the baptism of the Bible that saves



Baptized, but not...

Believing God was working

- **Colossians 2:12-13**, “*buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*”



Baptized, but not...

Believing God was working

- **Colossians 2:12-13**, Baptism is NOT a mere ritual about getting wet.

It is an act of faith.

You submit, but God acts to save you.

This is why it is “not of works, lest anyone should boast”

(**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

We CANNOT earn our salvation



Baptized, but not... Believing God was Working

- This also dismisses infant baptism, because an infant does not have faith. It also dismisses one who is baptized for superficial reasons (e.g. to please parents, friends, etc.)
Dismisses one baptized AFTER they are saved.



Baptized, but not...

Believing God was Working

- If you did not understand that in baptism you are obeying the gospel, but God saves you...
- You were baptized, but not...
the baptism of the Bible that saved



Baptized, but not...

FOR a clear conscience

- **1 Peter 3:21**, *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*



Baptized, but not...

FOR a clear conscience

- **1 Peter 3:21**, in recent studies we have noted that we appeal (request) to God for a clear conscience in the act of baptism.

By faith - we believe God will do as promised

By faith - we ACCEPT His forgiveness as we are buried with Him in baptism.



Baptized, but not...

FOR a clear conscience

- **1 Peter 3:21**, Thus, when we come out of the water we have a clear conscience.
- Baptism AFTER salvation implies that we ALREADY have a clear conscience before we are baptized



Baptized, but not...

FOR a clear conscience

- Again, order is important!
Also, the motive for baptism.



Baptized, but not...

FOR a clear conscience

- If you are already saved when you are baptized, how are you appealing (requesting) to God for a good conscience?
- You were baptized, but not... the baptism of the Bible that saves



Baptized, but not...

To be saved

- **1 Peter 3:21**, in this text, Peter associates our salvation with water, relating it to the fact that water was instrumental in the saving of Noah.
- Peter in unmistakable terms tells us, “Baptism” - now saves us!



Baptized, but not...

To be saved

- **1 Peter 3:21**,
Again, denominational baptism rejects this.
- IF your baptism is NOT for salvation...
- You were baptized, but NOT...
the baptism of the Bible that saves



Back to our original text

- **Acts 19:1-5**

These 12 men, when they learned that they had been baptized for the wrong reason, submitted by being baptized for the RIGHT reason!

- Notice, I did not say, “rebaptized”. It is a matter of being baptized for the right reason when you respond!



Back to our original text

- What if you are not sure about whether you were properly baptized?
- My encouragement - you ought to make sure.

Eternity is too great a gamble to let pride keep you from making sure you are right with God.



Have you been baptized for
the right reason and the
right way?



Let us pray!

