

(9-9-12)

WHY BAPTIST?: RIGHT ABOUT BAPTISM

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TEXT: Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; **what doth hinder me to be baptized?**

37 And Philip said, **If thou believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they **went down both into the water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and **he baptized him**.

Some Baptist Principles:

- I. A Converted Church Membership.
- II. Ordinances Inoperative Without Choice and Faith.
- III. Believers the Only Biblical Subjects of Baptism.
- IV. Immersion Always the Baptism of the NT.

Why Baptist?:

1. Because Baptist doctrine avoids infant sprinkling, as well as baptismal regeneration:

"Of all the 'damnable heresies'...that have befouled Christianity, we consider infant baptism the most damnable."

(*Western Recorder*, Baptist newspaper, Kentucky, 19th century)

"The baptism of infants, in the first two centuries after Christ, was altogether unknown, but in the third and fourth was allowed by some few."

(Curcelleus, *Epistle to the Churches of Galatia*)

2. Because God is very serious about His pictures:

Exodus 4:24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, **and sought to kill him**.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 **For this cause** many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

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Romans 6:4 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.

"The word *baptize* signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the primitive church."

(John Calvin, founder of the Presbyterians, 16th century)

"For this reason I would have those who are to be baptized completely immersed in the water...And this is doubtless the way it was instituted by Christ..."

(Martin Luther, founder of the Lutherans; *Babylonian Captivity*)

"We are buried with him - Alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."

(John Wesley, founder of the Methodists; Notes on Romans 6)

"We have found that all the ancient churches practise immersion at the present day, with the exception of the Roman Catholics, who introduced sprinkling in 1311."

(James B. Lindsay, linguist, 19th century)

"Thirteen hundred years was baptism generally and regularly an immersion of the person under water, and only in extraordinary cases a sprinkling or pouring with water; the latter was, moreover, disputed as a mode of baptism, even forbidden."

(Brenner, a Roman Catholic; *Historical Exhibition of the Administration of Baptism from Christ to our Times*)

"...he [Jesus] went up out of the water...we read not in the Scripture that baptism was otherwise administered...for thirteen hundred years, baptism was thus administered..."

(Bossuet, Roman Catholic bishop, *Stennett ad. Russen; Booth's Pedro*)

"Any scholar who denies that immersion was the baptism of the Christian church for thirteen centuries betrays utter ignorance or sectarian blindness."

(Paine, a Congregationalist)

"..the Baptists are, from the Protestant standpoint, unassailable, since for their demand of baptism by submersion they have the clear Bible text."

(Doellinger, a Roman Catholic, *Kirche und Kirchen*)

"There was no such thing as sprinkling used in the Apostle's days, nor for many ages after them."
(Joseph Mede, *Discourse on Titus*, 1600s)

-Sprinkling did not spread to England until after the time of King James.

"...mode is a matter of minor importance..."
(W.J. Lowe, *Baptism, Its Mode and Subjects*, 1899)

"There is much talk now-a-days about a community church. Why should not Baptists, go in with all others and organize one church in every community? If it were left to us nothing would be more delightful. We like to agree and get along with other people. But it isn't left to us and to our consciences. The Master's plain command to the first church was 'to teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you'...The Bible is the standard and men's consciences never get right until they get right with the Bible and then they all agree...The fundamental and distinguishing Baptist doctrine and the one underlying all other Baptist doctrines is this: 'The Bible, the Bible alone, is our only and all sufficient rule of faith and practice'...Jesus baptized none but disciples or Christians. He commanded us to baptize none but disciples or Christians. For that reason Baptists baptize no infants, no seekers, no sinners, no probationers, nobody except those who claim to be Christians; because Jesus, the founder of the first Baptist church, did not baptize anybody but disciples or Christians. He left us an example and told us to walk in His steps. That is why Baptists are sticklers for regenerated church membership. Jesus started us that way and told us to 'observe all things whatsoever He commanded.' Jesus walked sixty miles to be immersed in the River Jordan by the first Baptist preacher. That explains why Baptists are sticklers for immersion and for Baptist baptism. They were started that way and the Master told us to do as He said. The Bible, our guidebook, makes baptism so clear and plain that anybody can read it out of the Book, if they want to. That is why so many of the common people are Baptists...The Bible says: 'And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized' (John 3:23). Baptists believe what the Bible says and hunt 'much water,' when they go to baptize...Baptists believe that infant baptism is a sin against God and against little children; because it takes away from the child the privilege and duty of obeying Jesus for himself in baptism [after salvation]...Because Baptist churches take the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, they are the only churches that in all their history have never connected salvation with baptism, either for infants or adults; but have always contended that salvation is essential to baptism rather than baptism being essential to salvation. God's order is always salvation first and then baptism..."

(H. Boyce Taylor, *Why Be A Baptist?*, 1928)

"The Baptists are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with the Church of Rome."

(Sir Isaac Newton; quoted in, *The New American Cyclopædia*, 1869)

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