

Is Water Baptism An Outward Showing?

The majority of religious people of today seem to think water baptism is to show the world that you have changed and that you are in a saved condition. I know this is what they believe because this is the feed-back I get almost every time water baptism is brought up in a discussion.

Water baptism is the only baptism that God recognizes for us today.

We see in the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians how that tongues, prophecy and such like gifts brought about by the Holy Spirit have been done away, and now abideth faith, hope, charity these three only, (13 verse) (no Holy Spirit baptism) as the first century church experienced.

In Ephesians 4th chapter, 5th verse, tells us there is only One Baptism.

In Romans 6:3-4 – “Don’t you know, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into death? 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”

In Colossians 2:12 – “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

Acts 22:16, Saul is told “And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

What have we learned from the few scriptures?

1. There is only one baptism in use today.
2. Baptism puts you into Jesus Christ’s death.
3. Received new life in baptism.
4. Baptism – put Christ on.
5. Baptism – washes away sins.

No wonder Jesus told Nicodemus, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

I Peter 3:20 tells us that baptism saves, not the washing the filth from the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God.

We need to obey God’s plan of salvation, just as He has it in His Holy Word, then our conscience will be clear.

- James Ferguson