

The Role Of Immersion In Salvation

1 Peter 3:18-22

A. Introduction

1. Much disagreement about baptism (method & purpose)
 - a. Ask right questions, get many answers supposedly right
 - b. How can conflicting answers all be right?
2. Answer lies in teaching of salvation by faith *ALONE* – **show slide**
3. Instead of trying to give answers what baptism DOES NOT do, why not look at what it DOES?

B. Discussion

1. We must understand the meaning of the term, “Baptism.”

- a. *Baptizo* – **show slide**
 - 1) **Chart** shows us how these other “forms” fail to fit Biblical pattern.
 - 2) **Testimony** from leaders & founders of prominent denominations
 - b. We understand burial when we need to!
 - 1) Bodies of the deceased...do we sprinkle a little dirt?
 - 2) Pirates “burying” treasure...did they just sprinkle the dirt?
 - 3) Go to pet shop, buy a fish, instructions are to keep it immersed...
- ### 2. The Bible says there is only one valid immersion (Ep. 4:4-5).
- a. People claim *at least* two different “baptisms.”
 - 1) Baptism of Holy Spirit (ceased with miracles)
 - 2) Baptism of fire (context reveals this is speaking of punitive fire)
 - b. Paul told Christians in Ephesus only one.
 - 1) Single method, purpose, outcome.
 - 2) What did this one valid immersion look like in days of apostles?
 - a) Method – involved “much water” (**Jn. 3:23**); involved going “down into the water” (**Acts 8:38**); immersion involved immersion!
 - b) The churches of God knew of no other method!

3. What is immersion’s role in salvation?

- a. Jesus said immersion is necessary in order to be saved (**Mk. 16:16**).
- b. Immersion is part of the sin remitting process (**Acts 2:38**).
- c. Immersion is the only way to be united with Christ (**Ro. 6:3-9**).
- d. Immersion clothes us with the righteousness of Christ (**Ga. 3:26-27**).
- e. Immersion unites our faith with God’s power (**Co. 2:12**).
 - 1) Our faith saves us only because God graciously supplies His wonder-working power!
 - 2) What, then, is the outcome when the proper method & purpose are involved?
- f. Immersion saves us (**1 Pe. 3:21**).
 - 1) Are we denying all the verses about salvation coming by faith?
 - a) On the contrary!
 - b) Remember – **Col. 2:12** – Immersion is the union of our faith with God’s resurrecting power!
 - c) Saving faith meets a gracious and powerful God where *he* promises to do the work.

C. Conclusion

1. If you can see these statements and conclude otherwise, your decision is based not on facts and the word of God, but by self-made conclusions.
2. Only the word of God sets us free (**Jn. 8:32**)