

# REVISTING THE BAPTISTRY

## A DISPENSATIONAL LOOK AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

*"One Lord, one faith, one baptism"*

*~ Ephesians 4:5*

### 1. Christian Baptism

- a. Every religion has their initiatory rites, and water baptism is what you see in churches.
- b. Apart from church attendance, baptism seen as the public act of becoming Christian
- c. Christian? Get baptized! Hulk Hogan, Kardashian, Bieber, Crowe, Schneider, Lecrae
- d. 'Surrender your life', 'make a commitment', 'first act of obedience', 'admit to the church'
- e. It is one of two ordinances (Protestants) that remain from the seven sacraments (RCC)
- f. Christening ~*def.* Ceremony of baptism; naming, dedication, initiation into Christianity.
- g. Baptism is universally accepted, except for questions of who, what, how, and why?

### 2. The Baptismal Barrier

- a. This the issue where others 'draw the line' with us since our baptism is not wet.  
(Webster) Baptism ~*def.* The application of water to a person, as a sacrament or religious ceremony, by which he is initiated into the visible church of Christ.  
This is usually performed by sprinkling or immersion.
- b. Baptistries contain a font or tank where priests administer the water sacrament.
- c. Water baptism taken from Israel's purity and dedication/conversion laws – Exo 29:4
- d. Without washing (mikvah), a Jew could not access the temple or offer sacrifices.
- e. Jesus commanded baptism – Matt 28:19-20 (and the law of Moses Mat 5:19, 8:4, 23:3)

### 3. Reasons for Water Baptism

- a. Any conflation of water baptism with salvation or identity is a failure to rightly divide
- b. *'It saves'* –Mark 16:16, Ac 2:38,22:16, but would require your work –Rom 4:5, Eph 2:9
- c. *'replaces circumcision, putting us into God's covenant'* – but Eph 2:15-18, Gal 5:2, 6:15
- d. *'makes you a member of the church'* – said no one before the church began -1Co 12:13
- e. Every Biblical instruction to water baptize is from a minister of the circumcision.
- f. *'an act of obedience'* – what if Jesus wasn't talking to you, but instructed Paul–1Co 1:17
- g. *'a public testimony of your salvation'* (not the reason for ancient baptistry buildings)
- h. *'a symbol of a spiritual reality'* – truth is always *hidden behind* symbols, but Col 2:11-12
- i. *'a tradition'* – Jewish, Christian, modern, denominational (without spiritual import)
- j. When physical actions are confused for spiritual realities, false religious ritual is created.

### 4. Many (Dry) Baptisms

- a. Every reason for making baptismal fonts sacred assumes every 'baptism' is wet.
- b. In the body of Christ, there is one baptism – Eph 4:3-5
- c. There is more than one baptism in the Bible - "doctrine of baptisms" – Heb 6:2, 9:10
- d. Noah and his family were dry on the boat - 1 Pet 3:20-21
- e. The children of Israel were baptized walking on dry land - 1 Cor 10:1-2
- f. John the Baptist mentions two baptisms without water – Matt 3:11
- g. Peter recognizes John's separate 'dry' baptism – Acts 11:16
- h. Jesus explained that not all baptisms are wet – Matt 20:22-23, Luke 12:50
- i. Paul, the only one who teaches baptism into Christ – 1 Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27, Rom 6:3-4

## 5. Redeeming Baptism

- a. The one baptism into one body does not require a baptistry.
- b. Paul's pattern was not water baptism (or circumcision, Pentecost), but grace – 1Ti 1:16
- c. Our baptism into Christ requires faith and the Spirit – Gal 3:2-3
- d. Baptism ~*def.* a complete immersion for the purpose of identification.
- e. Your baptism speaks to what you know – Eph 4:5, Acts 18:25
- f. Most important thing about baptism – “unto what were you baptized?” – Acts 19:2-3
- g. If you know the gospel preaching of the cross, the gospel of grace, your baptism is dry.
- h. Our baptism is into one body, by the cross, upon belief in Jesus Christ – 1 Cor 1:13,18
- i. Our identification is with Christ, complete in him, crucified/risen – Col 2:10, Rom 6:3-4
- j. One baptism by the Spirit saves, purifies, identifies us as the church. No water required.