

Mt. 28:19-20 **BAPTIZING BELIEVERES**

**Introduction:**

In this Great Commissionj Jesus assigned His church 3 duties: (1) Carrying the gospel to the unsaved; (2) Baptizing the saved; and (3) Teaching those who have been saved and baptized. This message deals with the second assignment.

**I. What is scriptural baptism?**

- A. How can a church know if what she is doing is what the Lord commanded? How can a person know that he or she has scriptural baptism”?
  - 1. Most of the Christian world assumes that it really does not matter how you are baptized.
  - 2. It may not matter to them, but it does to God.
- B. The dictionary defines baptism as “The act of dipping or immersing someone in water as a religious ceremony.”
  - 1. This is the primary meaning of the word.
  - 2. It gives as a secondary meaning: “The act of sprinkling or pouring water on an individual as a religious ceremony.”
  - 3. This is the way the world today uses the word.
- C. The Greek word in the original writing of the New Testament is baptizo and means “to dip or immerse.”
  - 1. It does not mean “to sprinkle or pour.”
  - 2. It comes from the word “bapto” which means “to dip a cloth or garment in water..”
  - 3. One does not sprinkle or pour dye on the garment; He dips or immerses it in the dye.
- D. Scriptural baptizing is dipping or immersion.
  - 1. This is the way Jesus was baptized.
  - 2. This is what Jesus practiced.
  - 3. This what Jesus commanded in The Great Commission.
  - 4. Anyone who does not have this kind of baptism does not have scriptural baptism.

**II. Who is to be baptized?**

- A. Is a church to baptize just anyone who do desires it?
  - 1. Is a church to baptize someone against his will? Is a church to baptize someone who does not know that he is being baptized?
  - 2.. In the Great Commission Jesus said, “baptizing them.”
  - 3.. He had first instructed “make disciples.”
  - 4. It is only after one had been made a disciple by being saved that he is to be baptized.
- B. This implies that there is to be no coercion, but he is to be baptized of his own free will and consent. .
  - 1. However, for hundreds of years Roman Catholics passed laws requiring all citizens to be baptized.
  - 2. Those who refused were imprisoned and many were tortured and some executed.
  - 3. Today religious freedom which began here in America prevails in all Christian nations.

C. The practice of baptizing only believers would eliminate the practice of baptizing people who do not know that they are being baptized.

1. Hundreds are being baptized every week and do not even know it.

2. I speak of babies being christened.

3. They certainly have not trusted Jesus to be their Savior.

4. If this is the only kind of baptism that you have you do not have Scriptural baptism.

D. If you have been saved since you were baptized you do not have Scriptural baptism and ought to get Scripturally baptized, Acts 8:36-37.

### **III. Who is authorized to do the baptizing?**

A. There are those who say, "It doesn't make any difference ."

1. Oh, but it does and if we can figure out to whom Jesus gave the Great Commission, we will know to whom He gave the authority to baptize.

2. Did He give it to the 11 apostles? (If so, then when they died the authority to baptize died with them.)

3. But there were more than just the 11 apostles present when the Great Commission was given. ( There were over 500 present.)

4. The church was present and it was to the church that the commission was given.

B. Thus, it was to the church that Jesus gave the authority to baptize.

1. Nobody but a New Testament church has that authority.

2. And it must be the same kind of church which Jesus started.

3. It must be the same in doctrine and practice.

C. Thus, a new and different kind of church which can trace to side of Christ have no authority to administer baptism. (For example" 606 A. D. 1600s )

D. A church which has a founder other than Jesus Christ has no authority to baptize.

### **IV. What is the purpose of baptism?**

A. What good does it do? (What does it accomplish? Why did Jesus consider it important enough to command it?)

B. It has no saving power whatsoever. (It does not save, it does not help save; it does not help to keep one saved; it is not essential in any way to salvation.)

1. John 3:18 reads, "He that believeth on him is not condemned."

2. One can believe on Him without being baptized.

3. Thus, one can be saved without being baptized. (But that still does not answer the question.)

C. The chief reason is that baptism sets the believer apart from others.

1. One wearing a certain uniform is identified with that certain group. (Police, army, navy, etc.)

2. One who has been baptized has put on the uniform of the Christian and is identified as a Christian.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Are you saved?

2. If so, have you been baptized? Do you wear the uniform?

3. Were you baptized after you were saved?

4. Do you have a need to transfer your membership?