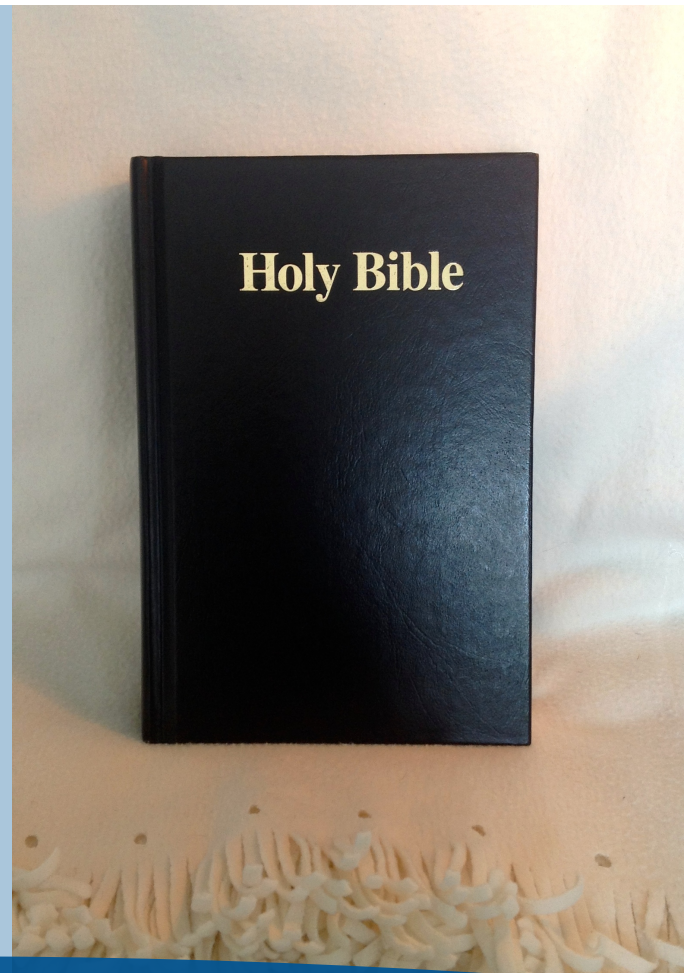


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EXPLORING
WHAT
THE BIBLE
SAYS
ABOUT
BAPTISM



Page 1



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Ephesians 4

:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

:5 One Lord, one faith, **one baptism**,

Infant baptism is not actually taught anywhere in the Bible!!!

A THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE 39 ARTICLES

“We can now turn to the question of infant baptism always remembering that the scripture language about baptism is coloured by the prevalent practice of adult baptism...As applied to infants it requires a certain accommodation to new conditions”

P.473 E.J.Bicknell

The Bible only Teaches Adult Baptism

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

“when they believed” i.e. They had to have faith, they had to be baptized into their belief, otherwise it would have been merely a useless washing, there was no power in the water itself :-

Acts 8:

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.

John 3:

22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Some would say, yes that is baptism as taught in the bible but can we not make “a certain accommodation” for infants? But the bible is specific that we cannot, there being only:-

Ephesians 4

:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Without the candidate having The Faith, and confessing the answer of a good conscience toward God, it would just be a bath:

1 Peter 3:21

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The one baptism is that which Christ commanded his apostles to teach :-

Mark 16:

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Just as baptism without belief cannot save, so belief without baptism cannot save (ie. baptism is the first step of obedience for believers)

1John 2:4

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

True baptism is the only way to get into Christ, we must take this step and then continue to obey the commandments of Christ

1John 2:5

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him

Baptism brings us into that essential fellowship relation with Christ, but we must then continue to obey Him

1John1

:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Saved from Sin and death.

Baptism is the way to start our association with Christ & His Sacrifice

Romans 8:

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

“weak through the flesh”

“sinful flesh”

“sin in the flesh”

“for sin”

For these reasons an Atonement was needed.

The Acceptable atonement was:-
“for sin, condemned sin in the flesh”

The mortal; sinful, state of mankind came about as a result of Adam's transgression.

Salvation from this comes by Christ's sacrifice:-

Romans 5:

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The way to associate acceptably with the sacrifice of Christ, to benefit by having him as our representative and champion, is the symbolic death, burial and resurrection of baptism

Romans 6:

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Colossians 2:

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

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.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Even Jesus had to be baptised, to fulfil all righteousness

Matthew 3:

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

1 Peter 1:

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This is what it takes to be born again of water, but what of being **born of the spirit?**

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Orthodoxy has receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit as being “born.... of the spirit” but this is never so called in the bible. Rather it is referred to as being only “the earnest of the spirit”

Ephesians 1

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

2 Corinthians 1

21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 5

4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. ["earnest" Grk arrabon 'part purchase given in advance as security for the rest']

Jesus was born of the Spirit by resurrection from the dead on the third day

Psalm 2

7 I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

That this relates to Christ's resurrection Paul taught:

Acts 13

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

Jesus explains somewhat what he means by "born...of the spirit" in the next verse:

John 3

5" Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Or as Paul puts it when teaching of the resurrection of the dead:-

1 Corinthians 15:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

“we shall also bear the image of the heavenly”. (v49) Jesus is the first of many to be born of the Spirit and thus “bear the image of the heavenly”:-

Romans 8

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

This means that as Jesus was the first to be born again of the spirit nature, the true believers are to follow in the day of the resurrection, as:

Romans 8

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits [only] of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Revelation 1:

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten [Grk born] of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.