

Another Sermon by Edward O Bragwell, Sr

What Baptism Does Not Do?

1 Pet. 3:21

Introduction:

A. Peter tells us something baptism does and does not do.

1. Unlike O.T. ceremonial washings — it affects conscience (cf. Heb. 9:9,10,14)
2. It saves the soul by the power of the resurrection of Christ.

B. Baptism does much for a penitent believer (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Gal. 3:26, 27)

C. Baptism will not do everything — many seem to think so.

Discussion:

I. It Does Not Change the Heart.

A. First, there must be a change of the heart — faith and repentance.

1. Of the intellect — Thoughts (Gen. 6:5) and beliefs (Rom. 10:10)
2. Of the emotions — Affections (Matt. 22:37) and desires (Rom. 10:1)
3. Of the will — Intentions (Heb. 4:12) and purposes (2 Cor. 9:7)

B. Then, there must baptism from the heart (cf. Rom. 6:17; 3,4)

II. It Does Not Remove Temptation.

A. Jesus was tempted immediately after baptism (Matt. 3, 4)

B. Christians must deal with temptation. (Jas. 1:12).

1. Promised divine help (1 Cor. 10:13).
2. Some yield to it (Demas, Peter, Judas, Simon)

III. It Does Not Make One Sinless.

A. Peter was not made sinless even by Holy Spirit baptism (Gal. 2:11).

B. No Christian can claim sinless perfection. (1 John 1:8-2:2).

IV. It Does Not Guarantee Eternal Salvation.

A. May not believe it does, but act like it does (Ill. Alligator)

B. Eternal life to all who obey the Lord (Heb. 5:8-9).

1. Baptism does not “complete our obedience.”
2. Life of continual obedience. (Phil. 2:12)
 - a. Steadfastly worship and serve (Heb 10:25; Acts 2:42).
 - b. Worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:24)
 - c. Seeking heavenly things (Col. 2:12; 3:1; Matt. 6:33).
 - d. Faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion:

A. Baptism is essential, but will not take you to heaven alone.

B. Obey the Lord in baptism, then be raised to walk in a new life.