

Does the “church of Christ” Teach Salvation by Baptism Alone?

I. Introduction:

A. Are those who are saved, saved by baptism? Many say “NO!”

1. However, there are many Scriptures that are plain on the requirement and effect of baptism for those seeking salvation:

- a) Mark 16:16 (NKJV)
- b) Acts 2:38 (NKJV)
- c) 1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)
- d) Acts 22:16 (NKJV)

2. Multiple examples – first Christians were baptized in obedience to command and instruction:

- a) Acts 2:38
- b) Acts 2:41-42
- c) Acts 2:47
- d) Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9.
- e) Cornelius – Acts 10 (Acts 10:48 (NKJV))
- f) The Jailor and Lydia – Acts 16. Etc.

3. So – there can be no reasonable doubt that baptism (immersion in water) plays an essential role in one’s salvation from sin!

4. However, our question is “Is a man saved by Baptism alone, and does the church of Christ teach such a doctrine?”

5. It is similar to another question we often hear, “Is one saved by FAITH alone?”

- a) For example: What is if a man says “I am saved by faith alone” – he is saying essentially – “I need nothing else”, “I don’t need to do anything else.”

(1) Note found in a “study” bible – GRACE + FAITH + NO ACTION ON MAN’S PART = SALVATION

b) If we examine this idea in light of Scripture, would this premise hold true?

(1) Faith of the chief rulers (of synagogue) - John 12:42-43

(2) Devils believe - James 2:19

(3) The only occurrence of the phrase “faith only” in the Scriptures - James 2:24

(4) Any passage that requires more than simply faith alone --- disproves idea of faith only.

c) By the same reasoning – any attempt to eliminate “faith” from God’s formula for salvation would be spiritually fatal! -- Hebrews 11:6

6. IS it taught (by members of the church of Christ) that man is saved by baptism alone? – In Short – the answer is a resounding “NO”

II. A BRIEF LOOK AT WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS MEN ARE SAVED BY:

A. GOD’S GRACE.

- 1. Acts 15:11**
- 2. Ephesians 2:5**
- 3. Ephesians 2:8-9**

B. GOD’S MERCY.

- 1. Titus 3:5**

C. JESUS CHRIST.

- 1. John 3:16-17**
- 2. 1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)**

D. BLOOD JUSTIFIED – SAVES FROM THE WRATH OF GOD –

- 1. Romans 5:9-10**

Saved by Baptism Alone?

a) Saved by his life!

E. CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

1. Acts 2:21

F. IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

1. Acts 4:12

2. Romans 10:13 (

G. WORDS.

1. Acts 11:14

2. James 1:21

H. GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. Romans 1:16

2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

I. PREACHING.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:21

J. FAITH.

1. Mark 16:15

2. Acts 16:30-31

3. Romans 10:17

K. FEAR.

1. Jude 1:23

L. GODLY SORROW AND REPENTANCE.

1. 2 Corinthians 7:10

2. Acts 17:30

M. CONFESSION:

1. Matthew 10:32

2. Romans 10:9-10

N. AND YES, BAPTISM!

1. Mark 16:16

2. Acts 2:38

O. A fair and reasonable conclusion: In light of the evidence of this multitude of Scripture – man is saved by NOTHING alone (of and by itself) !

III. CONSEQUENCES IF SUCH WERE TRUE ABOUT WHAT WE TEACH:

A. Would make the same mistake as “faith alone” doctrine, i.e., leave out OTHER essential elements.

B. Would force the untenable conclusion that God is obligated to save the unbeliever, unrepentant, un-confessing, Conclusion:

C. No, the church of Christ (members of Christ’s church) does not believe, nor do we or the Scriptures teach that a man can be saved by baptism alone – no more than they teach salvation by faith alone or any other essential element alone.

1. Note: water is essential to life, air is essential to life, food is essential to life ... the essential need for one does not eliminate the essential need for the other! Same is true in the matter of salvation!

D. Do not mistake this explanation to mean that one can be saved while excluding baptism! The Lord, the New Testament and those who follow the New Testament absolutely DO teach that baptism for the remission of sins is an essential act of obedience in the acquiring of God’s grace in the matter of salvation!