

Believing on the Lord and Baptism

Acts 18:8

Introduction:

- A. Most professed Christians know that the Bible teaches baptism.
- B. But, many find it hard to believe that it is necessary to one's salvation.
 - 1. Is this conclusion based on hard evidence or personal opinion?
 - 2. Is one persuaded by Bible evidence or hypothetical situations?
 - a. "What about all good people who are not?" - Some not bel. or repent.
 - b. "What one who can't get to water?" - Pagan get to gospel?
 - c. "What about one killed on way to baptism?" What about repent, pray, etc.
 - d. "How can so many good people be wrong about it"? - Many wrong about Christ.
- C. We need to deal with two questions on the necessity of baptism to salvation.

Discussion:

I. Is There Compelling Evidence That Jesus *Can* Make Baptism Necessary to Salvation?

- A. He can if **he is the Son of God**.
 - 1. Eyewitnesses (John 20:20,21; 1 John 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:1-8)
 - 2. Prophecy. (2 Pet. 1:16-21; cf. Is. 53; Ps. 22).
- B. He can if **he has all authority**. (Matt. 28:18; cf. Acts 2:36; Matt. 9:1-6).
- C. He can if **he can make any blessing conditional**.
 - 1. Made washing a condition of seeing. (Jno. 9:7; 2 Kings 5).
 - 2. Made selling a condition of eternal life. (Matt. 12:16-21).
- D. He can make **any** thing necessary, **if he can make one thing necessary**.
 - 1. Faith is necessary. (Acts 8:24).
 - 2. Repentance is necessary. (Acts 17:30).

II. Is There Compelling Evidence That Jesus *Does* Make Baptism Necessary to Salvation?

- A. The "great commission" (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16).
- B. The "great commission" executed. (cf. Acts 1:8).
 - 1. Jerusalem (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. Samaria (Acts 8:12,13).
 - 3. "To the end of the earth" (8:36; 9:18 [22:16]; 10:48; 16:15; 16:30-34; 18:8; 19:5)
- C. The Epistles. (Rom. 6:3,4; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion:

- A. If you believe that Jesus both can and does make baptism necessary, why not be baptized this very hour?