

“Can Any Man Forbid Water”

Acts 10:47-48

Introduction:

- A. The importance of water baptism is generally downplayed by modern religion.
 - 1. “What possible good could being dipped in water possible do?”
 - 2. “It is good to baptized, but just to show that you have been saved”
- B. The importance of water baptism is emphasized in the New Testament record.
- C. There two persons who might attempt to forbid water.

Discussion:

I. The Person Who Should Baptize.

- A. He should forbid water to those who are not penitent believers (Acts 8:36, 37; cf. Matt. 3:7,8).
 - 1. Infants, little children, mentally incompetent – not capable of faith and no sins to repent of.
 - 2. Sinners who will not repent of sins – indicate they plan to continue in sin.
- B. He should not forbid water to a penitent believer because of:
 - 1. His fleshly status (Acts 10:34, 35)
 - 2. His past life (Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11) – No probation period.
 - 3. No church has voted on him (cf. Acts 8:35-38).
 - 4. No supernatural experience – Where is passage? “Have experience and be baptized.”

II. The Person Who Should Be Baptized.

- A. Why should one want to be baptized in water?
 - 1. To obey a divine command (v. 48).
 - 2. To be saved from sin (I Pet. 3:20, 21; Acts 2:38).
 - 3. To be raised to a new spiritual life (Rom. 6:4).
 - 4. To receive the spiritual blessings that are in Christ (Gal. 3:27; Eph. 1:3).
 - 5. To be members of the blood bought church (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 20:28)
- B. Why would one refuse to baptized?
 - 1. May be untaught (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. May feel that he can be saved without it (Heb. 2:3; Mark 16:15-16).
 - 3. May feel no personal need for it (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23).
 - 4. May feel he has plenty of time (Heb. 3:7-13; Jas. 4:13-17).
 - 5. May feel the time is not right (Acts 24:25).
 - 6. May be waiting on someone else (2 Cor. 5:10)
 - 7. May think he has already been baptized (cf. Acts 19:3-5).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you forbidding water? By what right?
- B. We want to baptize you, if you are a penitent believer and want to be baptized.