

The Right Baptism

Acts 19:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Text makes one thing clear — Just any baptism will not do.
 - 1. These had been baptized unto John's baptism.
 - 2. These had not heard of Holy Spirit. (cf. Acts 2:38).
 - 3. These had to be baptized again — “in the name of Jesus” (cf. Mt. 28:18-20).
- B. One must be careful to be baptized right.

Discussion:

I. The Right Element.

- A. Baptism in “name of Jesus” is not in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:15-16).
- B. Baptism that saves is in water. (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 8:38).

II. The Right Action.

- A. Baptism is immersion by definition. (Greek — baptizo).
- B. Baptism is immersion by description. (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).
- C. Baptism is immersion by demonstration. (John 3:23; Acts 8).

III. The Right Authority.

- A. Not by church authority. (Voting on candidate).
- B. Not by preacher authority. (Only “ordained” preacher.)
- C. But by divine authority. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 19:5).

IV. The Right Preparation.

- A. Only after teaching produces faith. (Matt. 16:15,16).
- B. Only after repentance. (Acts 2:38).
- C. Only after confession of faith. (Acts 8:37; cf. Rom. 10:10).

V. The Right Purpose.

- A. The purpose is not:
 - 1. To please any person on earth.
 - 2. To get into a denomination.
 - 3. To show that one is already saved.
- B. The purpose is:
 - 1. To obey God — submit to his authority.
 - 2. To be saved. (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21).
 - a. Saved added to church (Acts 2:47)
 - b. Saved are in one body. (1 Cor. 12:13).

Conclusion:

- A. What about your baptism?
- B. Does it have all these right characteristics?