

The Uniqueness and Dignity of Baptism

1 Peter 3:21,22

Introduction:

- A. We often hear baptism discussed from many standpoints.
 - 1. What is it?
 - 2. What does it do?
- B. We would like discuss it from the standpoint of uniqueness and dignity.

Discussion:

I. Baptism Has Uniqueness — Without Equal.

- A. Unique in that it is done only once.
 - 1. One may have to repent often (cf. Luke 17:3).
 - 2. One must worship often (Each item repeated).
- B. Unique in that lack of human rationale for it.
 - 1. Easier to see a need for faith (1 Cor. 1:1:18-21).
 - 2. Easier to see a need for repentance (Acts 17:30-31).
 - 3. Easier to see to contribute (1 Cor 16:1-2).
 - 4. Not easy to see reason for baptism
 - a. We must accept the divine explanation.
 - b. We do it purely out of faith in the Lord.
 - c. Like Naaman's dipping in Jordan.
- C. Unique in the amount of objection to it.
 - 1. It seems that repentance, giving time and money, clean living would be more objectionable.
 - 2. It just takes mention of baptism to start an argument.

II. Baptism Has Dignity.

- A. Seen by those who received it.
 - 1. Jesus was baptized.
 - 2. Paul was baptized (Acts 22:16).
- B. Seen by what is said about it.
 - 1. Christ, with all authority, commands it. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:16).
 - 2. Paul taught it (Rom. 6:1-4).
 - 3. Bible emphasizes it: Repeated often — among last words of Jesus
- C. Seen by the company it keeps. (Eph 4:4-6).
- D. Seen by what it accomplishes by the power of God.
 - 1. By it we enter Christ and his kingdom or church (Gal. 3:26, 27; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:5).
 - 2. By it we are saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion:

- A. Baptism is unique, dignified, and necessary — Obey today.
- B. Baptism does not complete obedience — it near the beginning.