

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1071

September 13, 2015

Baptism — What is It?

Baptism is the step that puts us into Christ (Galatians 3:27), puts us into the body (I Corinthians 12:13), which is the church, and washes away our sins (Acts 22:16), thus saving us (I Peter 3:21). What is baptism— physically speaking? Simply put, it is a complete immersion or submerging under water. (Spiritually speaking, there is much more involved in baptism, but let us consider the physical act.) The American Heritage Dictionary (1992), third edition, never once uses the word “submerging,” “submersing,” or “immersion” in its definition of baptism. It does offer the Greek origins of the word though, and upon investigation of the original meaning, one sees that baptism is the specific act of complete immersion under water.

The word translated baptize(d) in the New Testament is from the Greek word, βαπτίζω (baptidzo). According to a Greek lexicon, this word means “to immerse” or “to submerge.” One definition is “to overwhelm.” In the context of what is being done, the water completely overwhelms (covers) the person being baptized. The

following information clearly illustrates the true meaning of “baptize.” The following is included in my computer-based version of Strong’s Concordance:

The clearest example that shows the meaning of “baptizo” is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be ‘dipped’ (bapto) into boiling water and then ‘baptised’ (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change. [some text omitted. —Marty] There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! [Bible Study Magazine James Montgomery Boice May 1989.]

I have baptized those who let their hands or feet remain above the water. It was necessary to perform the act again. I cannot say I rebaptized them, for according to the true definition, they were never baptized the first time. They were not completely submerged under the water. Baptism is not a pouring, sprinkling, or partial submerging. It is a burial (Romans 6:4). A burial requires a complete covering.

The translators of the King James Version chose not to translate the original Greek word, βαπτίζω (baptidzo), as “immersion,” or some other true translation. Instead, they chose to anglicize the original word, thus making an English word similar in sound and form to the original Greek. That word was “baptize.” This was a compromise. It was true to the text, in that it was basically what the text literally said. At the same time, the term, not truly translated, was cloaked in confusion and not offensive to the false teaching of the day concerning baptism.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton and Shirley Parson.** Lillian Riffle has had pneumonia.

—We extend our sympathies to the family of **Beverly Eames** who passed away in Indiana last Monday. Funeral services were Friday in Palymara, Indiana. She is the first cousin of Shirley Edwards.

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What the translators did was an injustice to the text and to those dependent upon their translation. Because of this action, many have been baptized in a way they thought was acceptable to the Lord, but was instead contrary to Him and the teachings of the Bible.

May we ever realize the grave responsibility we have in proclaiming the Gospel clearly and in its entirety— without omission or addition. Some of the last words recorded in the pages of the Bible speak of this. We are warned in Revelation 22:18-19, *“¹⁸For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

—Marty Edwards ❖

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In Joshua 7 the children of Israel failed to capture the small city of Ai after capturing Jericho. The reason was simple— the Lord had commanded them not to take any of the spoils from Jericho, but a man named Achan disobeyed this commandment.

Achan was stoned to death because of his sin, but note what happened to his family. They, along with Achan’s worldly possessions, were brought to the valley of Achor. They were then stoned and burned.

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Sunday, September 6, 2015		
Classes	17	I Corinthians 13:7-13
Preaching	19	The Word of God Never Changes
Contribution	\$484.00	
Evening	19	Singing (Psalm 111)
Wednesday, September 9, 2015		
Classes	18	Ezekiel 12:1-28

Visitors— Sep 6 (AM) Madison Gaddie (Munfordville); Mike Withrow & Carla Logsdon (Munfordville)

Bible Quiz

Ezekiel was to do what with quaking and what with trembling?

Last Week’s Answer— Take out a stony heart and give a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19)

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Achan was stoned to death because of his sin, but note what happened to his family. They, along with Achan’s worldly possessions, were brought to the valley of Achor. They were then stoned and burned.

His family had to suffer because of his sin. Will your children be lost or saved because of your influence? —Marty Edwards ❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)