

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 966

September 15, 2013

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 and Jean Coffey. Sandy Duncan** continues to recover from knee replacement surgery.

☆☆☆

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 ❖

This past week there was actually breaking news on a crawl at the bottom of the TV that the leader of the large religious group based in Rome (they did have it worded differently) had announced that atheists did not have to believe in God to go to Heaven. This statement is illogical, odd, and just totally false teaching given millions false hope, as this group has done for centuries anyway.

Atheists do not believe in God and therefore cannot believe or hope to be home with Him in Heaven. If anyone does want to go the Heaven, the Bible plainly says in Hebrews 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

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Sunday, September 8, 2013		
Classes	13	Acts 9:36-10:16
Preaching	28	Mark 4:20-31
Contribution	\$436.05	
Evening	18	Job 9:1-35
Wednesday, September 11, 2013		
Classes	18	I Samuel 15:1-35

Visitors—
 Sep 8 (AM) Andy, Marsha, Hannah, & Clay Wagoner (Bowling Green, KY);
 Madison Gaddie (Munfordville)
 Sep 8 (PM) Joanna Locke (Hardyville, KY)

Bible Quiz

What did the LORD spread out?

Last Week’s Answer— A sharp rock (I Samuel 14:4)

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It doesn’t sound to me like an athiest can go to Heaven. They can’t. This group is teaching lies and false doctrine that will and are, condemning peoples souls.

Study the Bible to see what the LORD wants you to do. Not what some man says.

—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)