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| 1 | "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature; he who believes AND is baptized will be saved". That's how Jesus sent out the apostles into this world nearly 2000 years ago. He who believes AND is baptized will be saved. It's not enough to just believe, to just drift along in your life saying 'Yes well I some sort of accept Jesus that existed, I some sort of believe in God'; but we have to make some concrete choice, some concrete election in this world, that I will not drift any longer, I will make a one-off concrete commitment to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ. And the way we are asked to do that is through baptism. Now when people in the New Testament times understood this, they were immediately baptized. Reading through the New Testament, it's quite clear that as soon as people understood the Gospel they were baptized; it wasn't just an optional extra, it was something they did immediately. Because they understood that it was necessary for their salvation. |  |
| 2 | In Acts chapter 16, there is an example there of where Paul is in prison at Philippi. And there's an earthquake, and we're told that the prison keeper wanted to kill himself. But Paul said 'No, no, don't do that'; and he explained the Gospel to him. And that "same hour of the night", it is written, "that same hour of the night", that man was baptized. Now he had so many other things on his plate, he could've said 'Well let's just wait a bit, let's wait till tomorrow, or the day after, let's sort out the damage from the earthquake'; but no, he was convicted and he was baptized immediately. And it was not only him. When Peter started preaching the Gospel in Acts chapter 2, the people when they heard the message they said 'What must we do?'. And that's really the question that I think we all come to. What must I do. I know that I've got to get right with God and I must connect with the Lord Jesus Christ. What must we do? And Peter says 'Repent and be baptized, for the forgiveness of your sins'. And immediately, that same day, that same afternoon it would seem, 3000 people were baptized immediately, because they realized their need to make that concrete connection with the Lord Jesus Christ. Now how, how should we be baptized. I want to show you now a clip of a baptism being performed. |  |
| 3 | So Calvin do you believe the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ? |  |
| 4 | Yes |  |
| 5 | We're going to baptize you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. |  |
| 6 | Amen Brother! Praise the Lord! |  |
| 7 | You'll notice that we baptized by complete immersion in water. Why? Well baptism symbolizes the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died and resurrected, and we connect ourselves with His death and resurrection. So going under the water is like death with Jesus, and coming up out of the water is like His resurrection. Paul explains this in Romans chapter 6. That's why when we read about baptisms in the New Testament, it's clear that what they had in mind was complete dipping in water, not just sprinkling water on somebody's head. John the Baptist, we're told, baptized people in a place near Aenon near to Jerusalem in the River Jordan. Why? Because, we read in John's Gospel, "because there was much water there". So you need a certain amount of water to do a baptism. |  |
| 8 | When Phillip preached the Gospel to the Ethiopian in the desert, as they were going on their journey, they came to an oasis, some water, and the Ethiopian said 'Can I be baptized?'. And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you can be'. And then it says that when they came up out of the water, then Philip went on his way. The record in Acts chapter 8 says that both Philip and the Ethiopian "went down both into the water, and came up out of the water". And you have the same idea there when we read about the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. But why was Jesus baptized? I suggest that why He was baptized as an adult, at 30 years of age, was to set us an example. Well we read in the record of the baptism of Jesus that "When He was come up out of the water" the Holy Spirit came upon Him. The point is that baptism involves a going into the water and a coming up out of it. The New Testament was written in Greek, and the original Greek word that was translated 'baptism' means 'to dip'; it does not mean 'to sprinkle'. Let's talk to someone who knows the Greek language.  |  |
| 9 | Hello, my name is Elpida and I am from Greece. |  |
| 10 | Elpida, that's a real Greek name! Elpida, how do you understand this Greek word 'baptizo'? |  |
| 11 | 'Baptizo' would mean to dip in, to plunge in and immerse also. |  |
| 12 | So would you as a Greek speaker, would you understand it to mean to sprinkle water? |  |
| 13 | No, it would mean that your whole body would immerse down into the water and then come out. So it has to be the whole body, not just sprinkling water. |  |
| 14 | I see. Thank you. |  |
| 15 | It's quite common these days to hear about people baptizing little children. People do that because it's a tradition, because that's how "the church" says you should baptize children. And they feel that 'If I baptize my children by sprinkling as little babies, then that's good, I've done my religious duty'. Or it may simply be that they feel that their friends and their neighbours etc. in their culture generally baptize their children when they are born, and so they do the same. But that is not Biblical baptism. Because there is no example in the whole of the New Testament of little children being baptized when they are born. Every example in the New Testament is of adults realizing their need for the Lord Jesus Christ and being baptized by immersion. Now we said that the word translated 'baptize', the Greek word translated 'baptism', does not mean as a word 'to sprinkle', it means 'to dip'. And it's not only that little children can't really understand the Gospel, and that they have no choice in the matter, it's also that baptism is a matter of repentance and receiving forgiveness- which a child can't understand. In Acts chapter 2, as we've already mentioned, people said to Peter, 'What must we do?'. We read that they were "touched in their hearts", in their consciences, and they said 'What must we do?'. And Peter says 'Repent and be baptized, for the forgiveness of your sins'. Now it's impossible for a newborn baby to repent and to even want to receive forgiveness. So then baptism is appropriate only for people old enough to realize the burden of human sin, and to realize their need to make their own personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.  |  |
| 16 | Let's now talk to Raisa. She's someone who was baptized as a little baby. |  |
| 17 | Raisa, are you baptized? |  |
| 18 | Well of course, as a Russian I was baptized in the Orthodox Church, so my mother told me, at a very young age. But I consider this was not correct. Children must grow up and then recognize their own sinfulness, and then decide for themselves about baptism when they are of a responsible age. Because every person sins, even little sins, and so when they grow up they will want to be cleansed of those sins; but children don't understand any of this. To baptize them by force is wrong. So they must grow up, feel their need for repentance, and decide for themselves to be baptized. Therefore I am myself thinking about being baptized again. |  |
| 19 | Praise God! |  |
| 20 | To cleanse myself from sin. |  |
| 21 | Praise God. May it happen! |  |
| 22 | The apostle Paul compares baptism to how the people of Israel were in Egypt, and then went through the Red Sea, and then went through the wilderness and then finally entered the promised land. Now I'd like to read what he wrote in first of Corinthians chapter 10. He says "Now I don't want you to be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and were all baptized into Moses, in the cloud and in the sea, and did all eat the same spiritual food". He says they were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. His point is that as the people of Israel were baptized into Moses, so we as Christians should be baptized into Christ. And he says there that they were all baptized in the cloud and in the sea. Well you remember what happened at the Red Sea. The water divided, there were walls of water on both sides of the people, and there was a cloud above them. And what's a cloud? A cloud is water. And in that sense it says they were baptized in the cloud and in the sea, because there was water both sides of them and water above them. And in that sense, understandably, Paul perceived that what happened to Israel at that time was some sort of prototype of our baptism. |  |
| 23 | Now what that means then is that before we were baptized, we were in Egypt, living like the people of Israel were in slavery, in a foreign land, wanting to get out, wanting some better way of living and being. We were in slavery to sin. And God saw our situation, and He gave us the way out. And we do that by going out of Egypt, through the water of baptism by complete immersion. And then what? You don't come immediately into the promised land. You come into the desert, into the wilderness. And that's what our lives are like after baptism. We're walking through the wilderness, but we have in front of us the Kingdom of God, the promised land; we have a destination. Finally we have a purpose to living; life is no longer mere existence day by day, but we are on a journey with a definite end point. And God fed His people every day with manna, in the same way as He feeds us after our baptism by the daily reading of God's word. Now let's just listen to the experience of two people who decided to be baptized by immersion.  |  |
| 24 | Vadim, when did you decide for sure that you needed to be baptized? |  |
| 25 | First of all I read the Bible, but it was very difficult for me at the beginning. But then I searched on the internet and came across a site biblebasicsonline.com . There I read much information and received a free book. From that book and from what I read on the internet, I understood much about the necessity of baptism. And so I decided to be baptized. |  |
| 25 | Thanks |  |
| 26 | Edgar, why were you baptized into Christ? |  |
| 27 | For a long time one verse remained in my head: Galatians chapter 3 verse 8. It says that the Gospel was preached to Abraham, in that he was told he would have a descendant who would become many, like the stars in the sky, and they would reign for ever on earth. And that is the Gospel. After I realized that I wanted to be baptized. |  |
| 28 | But how is that relevant to baptism? |  |
| 29 | Because by baptism we become part of the great family of Abraham by becoming "in Christ". Thanks to that, God looks at us as if we are Christ. As it were, our status changes, we become acceptable in God's eyes. |  |
| 30 | So it is written further on in Galatians 3, verses 27-29. Can you read it please. |  |
| 31 | "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise".  |  |
| 32 | And so if we are "in Christ", as you explained, we have a different status. Even if we were to decide that starting from today, OK, I will not sin, even if we had some iron within us which held us back from sinning, well we have already sinned, sinned so much; therefore God thought up such a way of escape for us: whereby if someone is in Christ, then all the righteousness of Jesus is somehow counted to us. In this sense we can say that we are without sin, because of the fact we are "in Christ". |  |
| 33 | Yes and the main thing is that when we are baptized, we are immersed in water, we are dying with Jesus, and when we come up out of the water we are resurrected with Him. Because we have a part in Him. And so if we die in Christ, that means we must also be resurrected as He was. |  |
| 34 | Yes. That means we are "in Christ" all because we were baptized "into Christ". |  |
| 35 | The problem is, that some people live in societies where everyone baptizes their little children as babies; and the neighbours say 'Have you baptized your little child yet? Why not?'. The family might say the same: 'When are you going to baptize that little newborn baby?'. Let's listen to Kostya explaining what happened to him when he had a baby. |  |
| 36 | Hello. My name is Konstantin. I am 25 years old, and work as a doctor in the city of Murmansk. I want to tell you of a situation in my life which reveals the attitude of Russian people, especially the Orthodox church, to Christianity in general. Recently we had a daughter, and all my colleagues and friends gathered to give us their congratulations and presents. But the main question they all had was 'Are you preparing to baptize your child?'. I replied 'No', and my wife supported me. People were surprised, that we were not following the tradition of the Orthodox church of our country. I explained to them, that in the New Testament, there are examples of where people were baptized at an age of responsibility, as adults, when their personality had already been formed. Jesus was baptized at 30 years of age, and we also should come to this most important decision in our lives as adults; as people old enough to take responsibility for their lives before God, before others and before themselves. Looking around at the faces of those who were present, I realized that almost none of them had ever thought about this aspect of Christianity before, about this matter of baptism. One woman supported me by saying that she had been baptized as a baby but she had no idea why this was done to her, when she had never in her life at that time held a Bible in her hands, had never been to church, had never prayed to God and considers herself an atheist. Unfortunately here in Russia the Orthodox Church is passed on by inheritance. A child is born as Russian Orthodox. I think we should make our own choice in this matter, choice based upon our reading of the Bible and our fellowship with God. And not like is being done now. |  |
| 37 | Of course on a practical level, it's quite dangerous to try to baptize a newborn baby by complete immersion in water. And that just shows that baptism is not intended for little children. Let's listen to two young mothers explaining to us their experience. |  |
| 38 | Well there's a lake near here. What if I take my baby and baptize it there? Firstly, it'd be very dangerous. Secondly, he doesn't understand anything from the Bible. He needs to first of all read and understand the Bible. So that he would know God and Jesus, and decide for himself to be baptized. Otherwise, it would be pointless if he doesn't understand anything.  |  |
| 39 | So it's really easy to take a child, a small child, and sprinkle some drops of water on their head and think 'Great, they're saved! I've done my religious bit, that's it!'. But that's not the way to bring a child up to love Christ and appreciate salvation. We need to plant the seeds of love for God in their hearts and help them to grow up to love God, to love Christ, for themselves. It means reading to them, it means spending time with them, talking about God as we walk along with them, just all the time, being with them and talking to them about God and making God the focus of their lives so that when they're ready, they will come to make the choice for themselves, to be baptized and to accept Christ for themselves. |  |
| 40 | Now before we're baptized, of course we've got to understand something about the Lord Jesus Christ, into whom we are baptized. We read in the New Testament that when people believed the things about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, then they were baptized. So then, you need to study the Bible. Not every single chapter of the Bible, but you need to learn the basic message of the Gospel. And it's not difficult. But you do need to understand that before you can be baptized. Send us an email or write to us if you'd like to get a simple study course about the Bible. We have a book called "Bible Basics" and so send us an email at info@carelinks.net or you can look at biblebasicsonline.com. We're very happy to send you our book "Bible Basics", it's in over 60 different languages, so you can study the basic message of the Bible for yourselves, believe it, and be baptized. And we'd be so happy to help you practically to be baptized. Let's look again at some practical examples of people being baptized. |  |
| 41 | Well Vadim, we're so happy that you wish today to be baptized into the Lord Jesus Christ. So let's first of all, pray. Our Father, thank You that Vadim has decided finally for You, please be with him, go with him, bless his life in every aspect, and most importantly, give him real forgiveness and cleansing, so that he will live in newness of life and finally come to be in Your Kingdom. Father, be with Him, in the name of Jesus, Amen. OK so let's read from Romans 6, from verses 3 to 5. Here we have a section specifically about baptism. So let's read Romans chapter 6 from verses 3 to 5. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his". This means that Jesus died, was buried- and you too will die with Him. When you go under the water, this is like death with Jesus. Coming up from the water is like His resurrection with Him. This means that for sure, when Jesus returns, we have the hope of eternal life in God's Kingdom. |  |
| 42 | We can read in Romans chapter 6 that "the wages of sin is death" and we have all sinned. None of us have that steel within us which somehow could hold us back from sinning in the future. Anyway we have already sinned. And even just one sin deserves death. So God thought about another way, in that Jesus was our representative, having our nature. Insofar as we wish to be one with Christ through baptism, God will look at us as if we are Jesus Himself. Further, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, chapter 10, I will read: "For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food". This means that when Israel were in Egypt they were in slavery, in captivity; they suffered so much, it was like a concentration camp, it was not life but just existence. But God saw their situation, and gave them a way of escape in that the Red Sea opened up- there was water on both sides of them, and above them was the cloud. The cloud was also just water. In this sense they were surrounded by water, and so Paul understood that this was a type of our baptism. It means that we were as it were in Egypt, that is in the world, with no future hope, but God gave us a way of escape. And so they went through the water- but they were not immediately in the promised land. They were in the desert. And God gave them manna every day. I suggest the manna represents God's word. And so I very strongly encourage you to read the Bible every day. Of course we will pray for you, and of course we are so very happy that you decided for baptism. Volodya, do you have anything to add?  |  |
| 43 | Yes, just a few things to add. When Jesus was speaking to a Pharisee, Jesus spoke about baptism. And he gave him a question: How can a man be born again when he is already an adult? Jesus replied that whoever is born of water and of the Holy Spirit will enter the Kingdom of God. So just as Israel in the wilderness were cleansed and then fed by the manna, so we are cleansed within by the washing of God's word. Water baptism is an entrance into covenant with God, by it we show our rejection of our previous worldly life, and accept a new life. In the Scriptures we read that we are to show ourselves an example to the other believers in holiness and righteousness; we are to really be God's children, walking in truth and according to His commands. So open your heart to God, may God work with you, bless you and lead you in your life. Amen. |  |
| 44 | Amen. And so Vadim, do you believe the Gospel about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ? |  |
| 45 | I believe. |  |
| 46 | Good.  |  |
| 47 | Vadim, do you believe the things about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ? |  |
| 48 | Yes |  |
| 49 | So we are going to baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ. |  |
| 50 | Vadim, we are baptizing you in the name of Jesus Christ. |  |
| 51 | Praise God. |  |
| 52 | Praise God! |  |
| 53 | I welcome you into our spiritual family. |  |
| 54 | I wish you every blessing, may you walk in newness of life. |  |
| 55 | If you have not been baptized, you need to be, really and truly you do. And we can help you with that. Send us an email, info at carelinks dot net. Or write to us, PO Box 152, Menai NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA. There's a whole network of very sincere believers all over the world who are in touch with us, who would be very happy to help you quite simply to be baptized into the Lord Jesus Christ. Just get in contact with us and we'll do all we can to help you to be baptized. Please, don't just drift onwards, thinking 'Well I'm sort of OK'. Shrugging and thinking 'Yes, nice idea'. Do something actual and concrete about it. And pray to God for Him to guide you in this. God bless you.  |  |
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