

They Just Don't Get It!

by Wayne Goff

I was reading an historical article about the Anabaptists this past week and observed the “comments” posted on the web site concerning the subject of “*believers’ baptism*.” One comment from an overseas reader was:

“I was baptised as an infant and I refuse to be re-baptised by any denomination because there is only one baptism (Eph. 4:5), and it is valid since I kept my Christian faith all my life consciously, going through confirmation at the age of 13. Re-baptism will be against my conscience.”

It’s amazing how much is misunderstood by one person. First of all, baptism as an adult is **not** a denominational concept. It is part of the great commission commanded by Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-47). Secondly, any infant baptism is unscriptural because Jesus only commanded the baptism of **believers**. Infants are not capable of belief. Thirdly, one is not truly “*re-baptized*” because you can only be scripturally baptized once. The term is used *accommodatively* of one who is being immersed again. Fourthly, regardless of one’s sincerity and *continual* keeping of “*Christian faith*,” such does not make right that which was done wrong.

However, the commenter had one right idea: “*there is only one baptism (Eph. 4:5)*.” I just hope they didn’t mean that one could only be immersed once because that’s not what Paul had in mind. He meant by the phrase that there was only one scriptural baptism at this time: **the baptism of a penitent believer in Jesus Christ for (in order to) the remission of sins**. If one was baptized before belief, or without repentance, or because one thought he was saved, etc., then that person has not practiced the “*one baptism*.”

Space will not allow me to comment on all the other comments made on that web site. But they all seemed to have one thing in common -- **none of them believed that baptism is for (in order to) the remission of sins!** If you think that is right, then please read with an open mind Mark 16:16 and Acts 22:16. No, they just don’t get it.

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