

Confusion About Baptism

by Wayne Goff

I picked up a Rose Publication booklet recently entitled "What Christians Believe at a Glance." It's a nice looking, glossy publication, but it promotes the denominational concept of baptism.

One the one hand, it affirms "that baptism is not optional but a commandment" and yet says that it "has no ultimate significance apart from faith in Jesus Christ." Of course baptism has no significance without faith! So why does the booklet go on to endorse infant baptism?

Furthermore, the booklet goes on to state repeatedly that baptism does not save a person, even referencing Galatians 3:26-28 as proof! However Paul said that you are a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus "**FOR as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ**" (v. 27)! Is one saved **before** he puts on Christ in baptism?

The booklet attempts to associate baptism with Old Testament circumcision, and purification by water in the Old Testament. All in all, thirteen pages are devoted to the subject of baptism, and an effort is made to affirm *every kind of baptism except baptism for the remission of sins!*

It is tragic that the denominational world that calls itself "Christian" is so opposed to that which is so plainly stated! On the day of Pentecost, believers in Christ were commanded to be baptized **for the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38). Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations, and every creature, **baptizing them** (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). In the book of Acts, the New Testament case book of conversions, **baptism is mentioned in every single case of conversion!** Acts 22:16 says, "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" If you wash away your sins **in baptism**, then are you saved *before* and *without* baptism? And one final question: the Rose Publication said that baptism was a **command of God**. Can you be saved without obeying a command of God? How many souls will be lost while thinking that all they had to do to be saved was accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior?

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