## by Bill Crews

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...baptism is for people who are lost due to their own sins against God and that they must be convicted of their sins (Rom. 6:16-18, 1-4). Baptist churches, though they will not baptize infants, teach that everyone is born lost because they come into this world with the guilt of Adam's sin upon them. This the Bible does not teach (Ezek. 18:20; Eccl. 7:29; Lk. 18:15-17).

- 2. Baptist churches not only teach that one must be a believer before he can be baptized. They teach that one must believe that he is already saved before he can be baptized; they put salvation at the point of faith; they teach salvation by faith alone. They put salvation from sin before baptism; the New Testament puts it after baptism (Mk. 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:21). They put remission of sins before baptism; the New Testament puts it after baptism (Acts 2:38). They put discipleship before baptism; the New Testament puts it after baptism (Matt. 28:18-20). They put the washing away of sins before baptism; the New Testament puts it after baptism (Acts 2::16). They put being in Christ before baptism; the New Testament puts it after baptism (Acts 2::16).
- 3. Baptist churches teach that one must be accepted by the members of a congregation before he can be baptized; in times past they actually had the matter put to a vote. In the New Testament no one was ever brought before a congregation for approval before he could be baptized; in the New Testament churches did not vote upon receiving anyone for baptism (please read the example in Acts 8:26-39; the Lord adds one to the church, Acts 2:47; God sets the members in the spiritual body which is the church, I Cor. 12:18).
- 4. Baptist churches teach that one can only be baptized by one who is authorized to do so, usually a "licensed" and "ordained minister," who is a Baptist. Some teach that that authorization must go back in an unbroken chain all the way to Christ and His apostles before the baptism can be valid. The New Testament places no significance upon the identity of the one who does the baptizing. The important thing is whether or not the individual who is baptized has been taught and convicted and is from the heart obeying the truth (Rom. 6:17-18). When anyone at Corinth began to place significance upon who baptized him, Paul wrote that he thanked God that he did not baptize that person (1 Cor. 1:10-17).
- 5. Baptist churches teach that baptism puts one into a local congregation and makes him a member of that local body. In the New Testament we do not read anywhere that baptism put anyone into a local church or congregation. We rather read that baptism puts one into Christ and into the spiritual body of Christ, the church ("the church" in that sense is all the saved and not some local congregation --as in Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:10, 21; 5:23; now please read 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal. 3:26-27 and Rom. 6:3-4, which show that we are baptized into Christ and into the spiritual body of Christ, the church).

This is why I know that anyone who has received Baptist baptism has not received New Testament baptism. Please be honest; it is not all "just a matter of interpretation." It is rather a matter of Bible teaching and the salvation of precious souls.

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