



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 13, 2012

Heart to Heart...

The other day I was looking at some different web sites about baptism. I was just curious to see what others thought and taught. There were three main ideas that came up what religions speak of baptism: (1) *Baptism doesn't save and it does not bring one forgiveness.* (2) *Simply put baptism has no saving merit or power.* (3) *Baptism saves no one any more than swimming.* It was rather amazing how many times these three ideas were written about baptism in regard to God's word and how detailed they explained away God's word.

Listen to the apostle Peter: *"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (I Peter 3:21) Notice Peter is speaking of baptism, an immersion in water because he tied it to not being a removal of dirt from the flesh. Something happens within the heart of the believer. Did Peter lie to us and others?

It is rather interesting how bold some people are in contradicting the Word of God. Some even place baptism under a works system. It's not a works system, something you merit because you do it. Baptism is faith responding to God's word (Colossians 2:12). Peter said baptism saves because that's where one makes their appeal to God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Faith is crying out to a resurrected Christ. It is crying out to the Lord to cleanse the conscience. The effect is on the conscience and heart of the penitent believer. Peter said in the beginning of his preaching, when the Lord's church actually began in 30 AD in Acts 2:38 that baptism was for the remission of sins! It is where one's sins are remitted, taken away by the blood of Christ. That's why we are baptized into His name. One is **NEVER** saved first, then baptized!

Some never put it together. If baptism doesn't save, has no saving value, why do it? Those who teach it doesn't save or it is just a sign, why do something that doesn't matter? Peter affirmed *that baptism now saves you.* Why can't we just let the Lord speak plainly through His word? Why can't people simply conform to the word of the truth that is revealed? Jesus sent His disciples out with a message to preach and baptism was the response of faith to that message (Mark 16:15-16). Peter didn't have difficulty with it! Paul didn't have difficulty with it! The first century church didn't have difficulty with it! Do you? Think about it!!!

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