

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 6)

- Introduction:
1. As we ask questions about spiritual matters, we must always remember that the Bible is our only source.
 2. Furthermore, we must remember to be content with the information that is given and not go “beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

I. What if I Believe I was Saved Before my Baptism? Was I Saved?

- A. This is not a new question.
 1. Alexander Campbell – John Thomas.
 2. Gospel Advocate – Firm Foundation.
- B. This contention became known as “shaking in the Baptists.”
- C. The answer to this question depends on whether the purpose of baptism was given by God.
- D. Ills. Lord’s Supper – Not only are we told what to do, but why (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).
- E. Likewise with reference to baptism, we are told:
 1. What to do – Be baptized (Acts 2:38).
 2. How to do it – Burial (Romans 6:4).
 3. Why to do it – Receive remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- F. When God specifies the “What,” “How,” and “Why,” we must obey all three.

II. Is There a Baptismal Formula that Must Be Spoken

- A. Typically, you will hear someone say, “I baptize you in/into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”
- B. Some contend that speaking such words are necessary, while others contend that speaking such words is insufficient.
- C. The fact is, there is not a single passage in the Bible that tells us what is to be “said,” only what is to be “done.”
- D. At one’s baptism, we are to baptize them into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that is what we are to do, not what we are to say.
- E. What one says at a baptism is optional, but why would one not take this opportunity to teach others what is being done?

III. What If One Dies Before Baptism

- A. (1 Peter 4:11).
- B. Our answer to this question must be rooted in Scripture and not emotions.
- C. Ills. the proverbial tree limb.
- D. The same emotional tug that can be created over this baptismal dilemma can be moved to the point of faith.

- E. (Jeremiah 23:16) – “Thus says the Lord of Hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord.’”

- Conclusion:
1. Baptism is an important topic, but it is not our Savior.
 2. Jesus is. Our allegiance is to Jesus and not baptism.
 3. Because we trust Jesus, we will do what he says, and baptism was a line of demarcation between a sinner and a saint; being dead or alive; and being in the world and in Christ.