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Baptism – Pt 4 Baptism in the age of the Gentiles.

In our previous study we established that – according to the scriptures “baptism” is immersing a person in water, does not include sprinkling of water on a baby’s head, figuratively a person is buried with Christ by baptism and raised to walk in newness of life, baptism of the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God falling on a person, and the majority of churches today take their doctrine on baptism from the Gospels and the book of Acts. In this study we will establish from Paul’s writings to the church that baptism is not required for salvation today.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. There is one baptism, not two!

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph.4: 5).

Just as there is one Lord, one faith – so there is only one baptism – not a water baptism, and a separate baptism in the Holy Ghost, as the Mormon’s require for salvation.

2. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles baptized Crispus, Gaius and Stephanas’ family.

“Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other” (1Cor.1: 13 – 16).

3. Baptism was excluded from the gospel that the risen Lord Jesus gave to Paul.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” (Rom.1: 16), c.f. – 1Cor 1:17 – “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel”.

The gospel that the risen Lord Jesus gave to the apostle Paul by which a lost person must be saved during the age of the Gentiles is:-

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand...For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1Cor 15:1, 3, 4).

Paul is saying to the churches that those who receive and believe the gospel of Christ crucified in their hearts (Rom.10: 10), and call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom.10: 13). And because the risen Lord sent Paul NOT to baptize but to preach this gospel, then this gospel that saves a person today MUST exclude baptism.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

If a lost person heard the gospel of Christ crucified on Queen st, and received it, and believed it in their heart, and called on the name of the Lord, and then on their way home were killed in a car accident, they would go to heaven.

Question to think about.

If baptism is not necessary for a lost person today to be saved then why are believers baptized?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

1. Obedience to God’s instruction to the church today.

2. The action of baptism is an outward sign of inward purification that takes place in a lost person when they believe the gospel of Christ crucified. The action of baptism baptizes the believer into Jesus Christ – into His death, and resurrection – such that as Christ was raised from the dead, they too are raised up through the water to walk in newness of life. And so baptism for the believer is a picture of their dying to their old man and coming up through the water to live a new man. Amen!