

Theme: Because of the meaning of 'baptism' and especially the symbolism of being placed in, buried, raised, and clothed with Christ, full immersion is the best mode for water baptism.

I. Intro – Going Down to the River

- A. Scene in *O Brother Where Art Thou*
- B. Southern psyche - immersed in river
- C. My own baptism in cold river water
- D. But is immersion proper mode?
- E. Again - not as critical as earlier teachings

II. Pouring and Sprinkling

- A. The arguments for pouring
 - 1. Often used in OT worship (Lev 8:12)
 - 2. Spirit poured out on us (Eze 39:29; Acts 2:33)
 - 3. Baptism represents our consecration
 - 4. Baptism represents Spirit poured out - baptism w/ Spirit
- B. The arguments for sprinkling
 - 1. βάπτω dip - not necessarily immerse (Lev 14:6)
 - 2. Cleansing by sprinkling (Lev 1:5; Eze 36:25)
 - 3. Baptism sign of cleansing - sprinkle

III. Why We Baptize By Immersion

- A. The normal meaning of βαπτίζω is dip or immerse

- 1. Liddell-Scott - to dip in or under water
- 2. Calvin - quote on meaning of 'baptize'
- 3. Normal meaning in biblical use of word
- B. This was practice of early church (note Calvin)
 - 1. John 3:23; Mark 1:5,10; Acts 8:36,38
 - 2. Barnabas 11.11 - early practice immersion
- C. Theological reasons for immersion
 - 1. Key idea - union w/Christ - not Spirit, purification
 - 2. Murray quote
 - 3. Baptism - clothed with Christ (Gal 3:27)
 - 4. Baptism signifies union with Christ (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12)
 - 5. Baptism - death, burial & resurrection (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12)
 - 6. Baptism - sign we are in Christ (Gal 3:26-29)
 - 7. Baptism - we are immersed into Christ!!!
 - 8. A dab won't do ya! - covered with Christ!!!
 - 9. Sign (baptism) should show this - immersion

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Again - have you been baptized?
 - 1. I urge all believers to be baptized
 - 2. Search Scriptures - and obey!!!

3. Sign of our faith, discipleship

4. Don't delay - see me

B. Do we see our union with Christ?

1. Improve our own baptism!!!

2. His death, burial, resurrection are ours

3. We stand before God clothed in Christ

4. We are so united that our sin was placed on Him

5. We are so united His righteousness is ours

6. We are immersed - a new creation!

7. We have died to this world, are arisen to the new world!

Baptism: Immersed Into Christ

Galatians 3:26-27

Mark 1:1-8

May 9, 2010

?????

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him. Leviticus 8:12

I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD." Ezekiel 39:29

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2:33

He is then to take the live bird and dip it, together with the cedar wood, the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, into the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water. Leviticus 14:6

He is to slaughter the young bull before the LORD, and then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and sprinkle it against the altar on all sides at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Leviticus 1:5

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. Ezekiel 36:25

Whether the person baptised is to be wholly immersed, and that whether once or thrice, or whether he is only to be sprinkled with water, is not of the least consequence: churches should be at liberty to adopt either, according to the diversity of climates, although it is evident that the term [baptise] means to immerse, and that this was the form used by the primitive Church. John Calvin, *Institutes*, 4.15.19

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. John 3:23

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River... As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:5, 10

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"... ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36, 38

This He saith, because we go down into the water laden with sins and filth, and rise up from it bearing fruit in the heart, resting our fear and hope on Jesus in the spirit. (Barnabas 11.11)

We are liable to be misled by the nature of the ordinance, as one of washing with water, into thinking that the basic import is that of purification. However important that element is and even though it is included in the import of baptism, it does not appear to be the most central or basic element.... The relationship which baptism signifies is therefore that of union, and union with Christ is its basic and central import." Murray, *Christian Baptism*, 3.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Col 2:12