

## **Rejection of Baptism is Based upon a Theological Falsehood**

Someone has said that clarity is the ability to give directions without taking one's hands out of his pockets. Let us be as clear as possible, the rejection of baptism is not based on any present day person's study of the Bible, nor is it a falsehood that arose without a historical connection. The rejection of the Bible truth that baptism is essential for salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21), is based on the theological errors of essentially one man, John Calvin. For those of you who deny the import of the foregoing verses and accept the belief of salvation by grace or faith alone, the following is what your belief is based upon.

The rejection of baptism is based upon five theological mistakes that can be stated this way:

1. The innocent are held accountable for the sins of the guilty.
2. God does not love all men to the extent of giving them the option of being saved or lost.
3. Christ may or may not have died for you; who knows?
4. God will force you directly through the influence of the Holy Spirit either to believe or not believe.
5. Even if swear like a sailor and murder like Manson, you will still go to heaven. Whether one is willing to admit it or not, that is the historical basis for the doctrine of salvation by faith alone.

The basis for the essentiality of baptism as a step to salvation has quite a different basis. It relies in the words of the Savior, and His inspired apostles. Hear their words:

**JESUS:** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16).

**PAUL:** "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**PETER:** "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21).

These and other passages which teach the necessity of baptism are the words of Christ, and those who believed His teaching. The remarks made by men that baptism is not essential to salvation are made by men who believe a string of theological falsehoods that today bears the name of an uninspired man. Whom will you believe?

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