

BAPTISM

DANGERS

- ***Making Too Much** - Because I have been baptized then I am going to heaven, no matter how I live my life since that moment. That act saves me.
- ***Making Too Little**—No big deal, if you get the chance then do it

GENTILE BECOMING JEWISH

*Steps to Proselyte

1. **“milla”** – be circumcised (no matter what age – ouch!) because circumcision was a God ordained sign. Outward sign you belonged.
 2. **“tebula”** – be immersed in water, submerged in water, in order to demonstrate this. This is what they said. It was to demonstrate that they were dead as to their old life. They were dead as to their old customs, their old habits, their old traditions, most of all, their old idolatry and their old iniquity.
 3. **“corbin”** - They were to bring an animal to be slaughtered, the slaughtering of the animal was to remind that gentile that the forgiveness of their sin, the death of a substitute animal to picture the fact that there would have to be a substitute to die for their sins.
- ***Mark 1:4.** John the Baptist comes preaching repentance, and then he comes baptizing. It was an amazing thing. He was in effect saying to them “You're as gentiles. You're outside the covenant. You're without hope in the world. You're without God. You need to be immersed as a symbol that you have died to the old life, been washed, and brought into the cleansed family of God.”

POWERFUL PICTURE

- ***Enemies Defeated**—Colossians 2:14-15
-”Certificate of Debt” - v.14
-”Host of Evil Spiritual Forces: - v.15
- Satan cannot destroy us—Ephesians 6:12, Revelations 12:11

- ***Spiritual Circumcision**—What is cut away "without hands" is the old unbelieving, blind, rebellious self and its use of the body for sin.
- *The New Testament spiritual event of the circumcision of Christ cutting away "the [old sinful] body of the flesh." then, baptism is brought in as the external expression of that spiritual reality.

SYMBOLIC

- *Romans 5:20-6:4
- *Going under the water represents Jesus Death
- *Under the water represents Jesus Burial
- *Coming out of the water represents Jesus Resurrection.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

(19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mark 1:4 (NIV)

(4) And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:10-15 (NIV)

(10) and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (11) In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, (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. (13) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, (14) having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (15) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

TRUTHS

- *Baptism is not man’s idea it is God’s. It is a biblical thing.
- *It was practiced for all converts in all the churches. We know of no ‘unbaptized believers.’ Except the thief on the cross – Luke 23:43
- *Baptism is the decisive, public way of taking a Stand.
- *Baptism does not save you
- *Baptism is not necessary for salvation – not necessary for heaven or eternal life.
- *Jesus told us to do it – it is a command – not optional.
- *Baptism is a sign of significant reality of what He had done for us in the cross – shows us and the world that we are “All in.” Like the wearing of a wedding ring – doesn’t make you married but is a sign that you belong to someone else.
- *Baptism is “immersion”

NOTES:

Romans 5:20-6:4 (NIV)

(20) The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, (21) so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (1) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) 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.