

DUCK DYNASTY AND BAPTISM

It seems as if the Duck Dynasty boys have created a controversy. They're baptizing in the pond on their property! And Phil and Willie are preaching that baptism is essential for someone to be saved! And they have aroused the ire of those who would dispute that biblical fact.

I was listening to KBBW the other day and heard one of the speakers lambasting the Robertsons for their blasphemy. Granted, I got in on the middle of the tirade, but I certainly got the gist of what he was saying. He even went to what I consider the extreme when he compared the Duck Dynasty boys to those in Galatians 1 who "perverted the gospel of Christ." He even pronounced the "anathema" (condemnation) upon them. He was totally opposed to what he calls "baptismal regeneration" – the belief that a person does not receive the Holy Spirit and the transaction of justification is not fully made until the act of baptism is completed. And that's precisely what I believe the New Testament teaches.

He kept saying that baptism is an act of obedience, something I also believe. Salvation, he says, takes place after one has accepted Jesus into his heart and says the sinner's prayer. One SHOULD be baptized, but it is not immediate or essential. Ephesians 2:8-9, he said, says that we are saved by grace, through faith and not by works. Baptism, he says, is a "work" that is unnecessary for salvation. I found the same opposition to the Robertsons and their view of baptism on the internet—the argument brought by a man calling himself "Pastor Josh Buice." According to what I have found, "Pastor" Buice is the preacher at the Prays Mill Baptist Church in Douglasville, Georgia.

As in all things spiritual, I let the Bible speak. **Baptism:**

1. **Is a burial and resurrection with Christ** – Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 2:12
2. **Is how we clothe ourselves with Christ** – Galatians 3:26-27
3. **Is the spiritual circumcision of the heart** – Colossians 2:11
4. **Is the means by which we are washed and regenerated** – Titus 3:5
5. **Saves us as an answer of a good conscience toward God** – I Peter 3:21
6. **Is the means by which our sins are forgiven and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit** – Acts 2:38

And let it be said that it was an essential (and immediate) part of the conversion of those on Pentecost, Simon the Sorcerer and others in Samaria, the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul, Cornelius, Lydia, the Philippian jailer, Crispus and others in Corinth; all acts of conversion in Acts.

I'm not sure that I agree with the Duck Dynasty boys on everything, but on the issue of baptism, I fully defend them. In baptism, we bury our former life and are born again to live for God. Our sins are washed away and our heart is made pure. These are biblical truths we can depend upon.