

Baptism For The Remission Of Sins

John S. Sweeney

Baptism of Promise	Baptism of Command
The baptism of the Spirit was a <i>promise</i> .	The baptism appointed in the commission of our Lord is a <i>command</i> .
The baptism of the Spirit was not an ordinance or command to be obeyed by the believer,	but the baptism of the commission is a command to be obeyed.
The baptism of the Spirit was not a baptism "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;"	but that of the commission is to be so performed. Matthew 28:19 (NASB) 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
The baptism of the Spirit was not to be initiative of its subjects;	but the baptism of the commission is initiative into the church, into the one body.
The baptism of the Spirit was not connected with salvation or the remission of sins;	but the baptism of the commission is so connected. The baptism of the commission is an act of the faith of the individual believer, and is hence a transitive act--one in which, by his own voluntary acts he passes into the one body, into Christ: is born into the kingdom of God.
The baptism of the Spirit is a figurative baptism;	but that of the commission is a literal baptism of the believers of all nations and all times.

John 3:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 (NIV2011)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 (NIV2011)

¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Ephesians 4:3-6 (NASB)

³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Titus 3:5-7 (NASB)

⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 3:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water. ²¹

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt

from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The baptism of the commission, and of all those passages already quoted from Acts of Apostles and from the epistles, is the "one baptism"--the literal baptism of the new institution--and its element is *water*. It is, in almost every way possible to words and figures, connected with the sinner's salvation or pardon. It is joined with faith, and made with it a condition of salvation. It is connected with repentance, and with it made for the remission of sins. It is shown to be *initiatory* in its character--believers are said to have been "baptised into Christ," and so to have "put on Christ;" "baptised into his death," and so to have come into the benefits of His death; "baptised into one body," and so to have been made members thereof -- and in this way shown to be for remission of sins. It may be said in all candor and fairness, and with all proper respect for every one, that no intelligent, fair-minded person can read the Scriptures cited already in this discourse without feeling in his heart that they do certainly, at least, *seem* to make baptism a condition of remission of sins. And yet it must be granted that intelligent, fair-minded, honest Protestants reject the doctrine, and look upon baptism as a mere "ceremony," or "symbol," or "outward sign" of something; or *something else*, they may not know what--only they may think they know it is not for the remission of sins.