

These Perilous Times
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What do God's People Believe?
Part XV

Jesus stated very clearly that there is a prerequisite for entering into heaven. "Except a man be *born again* he cannot see the Kingdom of God..." ¹ {Emphasis supplied}.

The sinful, carnal man's old life must be buried in the watery grave of repentance, and the spiritual man emerge to the new life in Christ." ²

The English word *baptize* is a transliteration from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means to completely immerse under water.

Baptism by sprinkling, {"christening"} has become a common practice by many church denominations, as well as baby baptism. However, the Bible doesn't support either practice.

¹ John 3:1-6

² II Cor. 5:17

“There were antecedents to baptism in the Old Testament with which John the Baptist was surely familiar: *ritual washings and purifications*, and of course the story of Naaman the leper. However, John taught a spiritual purification that went beyond the mere physical washing of the body.

He called on people to make their baptism a sign that they recognized their sins and had repented of them,”³ {Emphasis supplied}.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

*Jesus our example was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.*⁴

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

15. Baptism

*“By baptism we **confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ** and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in the newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as*

³ “We Believe,” Signs of the Times Magazine-Special Edition , p. 18.

⁴ Luke 3:1-23; Matt. 3:4-17

Lord and Savior, become His people, and are received as members by His church.

Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin.

It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings,” ⁵ {Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20 Emphasis supplied}.



⁵ Seventh-day Adventists Believe, “A Biblical Exposition Fundamental Doctrines,” pp. 211-224.