

How Can I Know When I Am Ready to be Baptized?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Acts 10:47-48 - Baptism is a central part of the faith.
 - 1. Mark 16:16 - Baptism is essential to salvation.
 - 2. 1Cor. 12:11-14 - Baptism is essential to unity in the church
 - 3. Rom. 6:3-6 - Baptism enables us to have fellowship in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
 - 4. Baptism may be the most profoundly transformative activities one will ever engage in life.
- B. However, baptism is not for everyone.
 - 1. Infants and children who have yet to reach the age of accountability
 - 2. Unbelievers and impenitent sinners
 - 3. People who are not ready to give themselves to God
- C. When will they be ready?
 - 1. Acts 2:12-13, 36-37, 40-41, 8:33-37, 16:27-33
- D. Why are some unready?
 - 1. Waiting until they have more knowledge of Bible. This is an indicator that the hearer does not yet believe or is afraid to commit until he receives what he believes will be irrefutable evidence. He is hoping for something that will not be provided in this life, direct Divine communication or intervention
 - 2. Waiting until they get their lives under control. This is an indicator that their faith is in themselves and not in God and the Gospel. They believe they have the power to overcome sin without the help of God, and afterward they will permit Him to remove their past sins. Or, it may be as something as simple as fear of failure.
 - 3. Waiting till gets easier or costs them nothing. This is an indicator that they are unwilling to commit or make the necessary changes and sacrifices. They are waiting for a time that will never come; the world is not going to make it easier for anyone to overcome it
 - 4. Waiting for time when no one is pressing them. This is little more than a semi-civilized form of rebellion. They rebel because they want to have complete control of their environment. They are not prepared to believe that God is in control.

I. WHEN WILL I BE READY TO BE BAPTIZED?

- A. When I know that I am in sin.
 - 1. Sin separates us from God:
 - a. In the present - Isa. 59:1-2; James 1:15
 - b. Eternally - Rom. 6:23
 - 2. Baptism washes away sin - Acts 2:38, 22:16
 - 3. You understand that this is your condition, but are you ready to do what you must do about it?

- B. When I understand what I must about Jesus - 1Tim. 3:16
 - 1. Born of a virgin - Matt. 1:23
 - 2. Lived sinless - Heb. 4:15
 - 3. Son of God - Rom. 1:4
 - 4. Died for our sins - 1Cor. 15:1-4
 - 5. Arose from the dead - Acts 2:24, 32
- C. When I understand what I need to do in response to the grace of God.
 - 1. Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God - John 8:24; Heb. 11:6
 - 2. Repent of all sins and resolve to resist all temptation
 - a. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
 - 3. Publicly confess my faith in Jesus Christ - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10
 - 4. Be baptized by immersion in water - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
- D. When I understand why I need to obey the Gospel
 - 1. I am lost now and will be lost eternally - 1Cor. 6:9-11
- E. When I know that I am in danger while I delay
 - 1. Christ will return - Matt. 24:44; 1Thes. 5:1-3
 - 2. I will die - Heb. 9:27; Ecc. 3:20; 2Cor. 5:10
- F. When I cannot be talked out of it nor can I be tempted to delay any longer.
When one is ready to be baptized, nothing will keep him out of the water.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you know these things:
 - 1. When I know that I am in sin.
 - 2. When I understand what I must about Jesus.
 - 3. When I understand what I need to do in response to the grace of God.
 - 4. When I understand why I need to obey the Gospel.
 - 5. When I know I am in danger while I delay.
- B. Then you have answered your own question: "How can I know when I am ready to be baptized?" You are ready, and you have no good reason not to.