

Doctrine Of Baptisms

I. Hebrews 6:1-3

- A. Plural baptisms – The very first thing we notice about this principle is that it is plural, meaning there is more than one baptism. Other translations of verse 2 are as follows:

"of teachings of immersions" (ABUV)
"instructions about different kinds of baptisms" (Knox)
"teaching about ceremonial washings" (Weymouth)
"teaching concerning baptisms" (TCNT)

The Greek word is *"baptismos"* and it literally means washings. There seems to be quite a bit of misunderstanding concerning baptisms.

- B. There is no contradiction between Ephesians 4:5 and Hebrews 6:2

Ephesians 4:5
Hebrews 6:2

This would seem to contradict, but we must rightly divide the Word here. The Bible never contradicts itself. It may appear that way, but that's only because we don't understand or haven't sought the Scriptures to find the answer, or we simply aren't mature enough to receive it.

1. We must search and compare the Scriptures

- a. II Peter 1:20

The actual Greek here reads, *"This firstly knowing that no prophecy of Scripture is of its own solution."* We see then that you cannot build a doctrine or come to a conclusion about a subject on the strength of one verse of Scripture. No one verse is able to define something completely. We should never throw away multitudes of Scriptures that are obvious because we find one verse that seems to contradict the others. We compare, search, rightly divide the Word and let the Lord give the full revelation Himself out of the totality of His Word.

- b. Isaiah 34:16 – Every Scripture has a mate.
c. II Corinthians 13:1 (Matthew 18:16) – Every principle of God will not be established just by one passage, but it will be something that is woven throughout the entire Bible. There will be many witnesses (other verses of Scripture) that will confirm it. Every Word will be confirmed by at least two or three witnesses.
d. Proverbs 11:1 – God doesn't want a false balance, but a just one, that is one that has been evenly weighed. It takes many Scriptures confirming something to give the true picture.

- 1) Leviticus 19:35-37

- e. I Corinthians 2:13 – Other translations:

"Matching what is spiritual with what is spiritual." (Knox)
"Combining spiritual things with spiritual."

When the Holy Ghost teaches (this verse tells how he does), He compares things, and then He would have us to look at many passages to come to a proper conclusion.

- f. II Timothy 2:15

1) Other translations:

"Correctly analyzing the message of the truth" (Ber)
"Accurate in delivering the Message of the Truth." (TCNT)
"Skillfully handling the word..." (Rhm)
"Declaring the Word of Truth without distortion." (Con)
"Ever cutting a straight path for the message of the Truth." (Mon)

g. Acts 17:10-12

Berea in Greek means to stabilize, to stand fast and comes from a root word which means to walk. We are to search the Scriptures. Another word for "search" would be to examine.

- 1) Proverbs 25:2 (Hebrew – "word")
- 2) Ecclesiastes 7:25
- 3) Proverbs 8:33-34
- 4) John 5:39

h. Proverbs 28:5 – If we would set ourselves to seek the Lord we would understand not some, but all things.

- 1) Psalms 34:10
- 2) Psalms 69:6
- 3) Ecclesiastes 1:13
- 4) Song of Solomon 3:2
- 5) Isaiah 34:16
- 6) Isaiah 55:6
- 7) Jeremiah 29:13-14
- 8) Zephaniah 2:3
- 9) II Chronicles 15:2
- 10) Psalms 63:1
- 11) Matthew 6:33
- 12) Matthew 7:7
- 13) Philippians 2:21
- 14) Proverbs 2:1-8

The Lord giveth wisdom out of his mouth, or in other words, His Word. We need to seek and to search for it as for hidden treasure. We can see from the above passages that to truly and completely understand a doctrine we must invest some serious time examining the Scriptures to come to a proper revelation.

C. We must understand these two passages (Hebrews 6:2 And Ephesians 4:5). To understand Ephesians 4:5 we must understand what is called the threefold principle.

1. The Threefold Principle (I John 5:7-8)

a. God is one, but revealed in three

- 1) Father
- 2) Son
- 3) Holy Ghost

b. Man is one, yet revealed in three – Hebrews 4:12, I Thessalonians 5:23

- 1) Spirit

- 2) Soul
- 3) Body
- c. Salvation is one, but revealed in three – II Corinthians 1:10, Isaiah 53:5
 - 1) Justification
 - 2) Sanctification
 - 3) Glorification
- d. Baptism is one, but revealed in three – I John 5:8
 - 1) Blood
 - 2) Spirit
 - 3) Water

There are too many aspects to this threefold principle to take time and enumerate on them all here, but this will be covered in the next lesson.

2. Considering the above, now let's look back at Ephesians 4:5

God will not say in one place there are plural baptisms, and then in another say there is one. As we search the Scriptures we see the Bible speaks of three baptisms. It's important to note that the word "washing" many times in the New Testament means baptism.

a. **Baptism of Blood** – This is also known as the baptism into the body of Christ.

- 1) Titus 3:5
- 2) I Corinthians 12:13

This baptism is for the spirit of men, bringing regeneration and cleansing from sin, as well as initiating one into the family of God. It is the blood that washes away sin.

b. **Baptism of Holy Ghost**

- 1) Acts 1:5, 8
- 2) Luke 3:16

This baptism is for the soul of man. Its purpose is to aid in sanctification and enabling one to flow in the manifest power and presence of God, as well as aid one in moving in the gifts of the Spirit. It is to help us become witnesses for Jesus.

c. **Baptism of Water** – This is the baptism of water that testifies or signifies to others what has happened to us on the inside.

- 1) Matthew 3:11

3. So what about Ephesians 4:4-6 now?

a. One Body

- 1) 30, 60, 100 fold
- 2) Revelation 12:1 – woman; verse 5 – manchild; verse 17 – remnant of her seed
- 3) I Corinthians 12:14-27

b. One Spirit

- 1) Ministry of the Spirit – Isaiah 6:1-3
- 2) Gifts of the Spirit – I Corinthians 12:27-29
- 3) Fruits of the Spirits – Galatians 5:22-23

c. One Hope

- 1) Helmet – (hope of salvation) – I Thessalonians 5:8
- 2) Hope of Glory – Colossians 1:27
- 3) Blessed hope – Titus 2:13

d. One Lord

- 1) Saviour
- 2) Lord
- 3) Husband

e. One Faith

- 1) Measure of faith – Romans 12:3
- 2) Gift of faith – I Corinthians 12:9
- 3) Fruit of faith – Galatians 5:22

f. One Baptism

- 1) Blood – Titus 3:5
- 2) Spirit – Acts 1:5
- 3) Water – Matthew 3:11

g. One God

- 1) Father
- 2) Son
- 3) Holy Ghost

It is obvious as you read these Scriptures there is more than one baptism. So we see then that what Paul is actually talking about in Ephesians 4 is the initial faith we need to be saved, the initial receiving of our Lord Jesus Christ. The balance is found in I John 5:7-8. These three agreeing to one.

4. Baptisms is a foundational principle

- a. Hebrews 6:1-3 – Without this foundation stone properly laid in our life, we cannot go on to perfection.
- b. Psalm 11:3

