

There Is One Baptism
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Introduction:

1. We are presently studying the 7 subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. Today we are concentrating on the "*one baptism*" mentioned in vs.5.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST IDENTIFY THE "*ONE BAPTISM*"
 - A. This is where we need to begin because the Bible actually tells us about several different baptisms.
 - B. For example, the Bible speaks of:
 1. "the baptism of John the Baptist" (Matthew 3:1-6)
 2. "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 3:11a)
 3. "the baptism of fire" (Matthew 3:11b-12)
 4. "the baptism commanded by Christ" (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - C. Let us determine which is the "*one baptism*" mentioned in Ephesians 4:5.
 1. Is it John's baptism?
 - a. No, John's baptism was valid for a limited time because he pointed people to Christ who would come after him (Acts 19:4).
 - b. Later, we will read about some people in Ephesus who were baptized by John's baptism, and they had to be baptized again.
 2. Is it Holy Spirit baptism?
 - a. (Matthew 3:11) John said Jesus would administer Holy Spirit baptism.
 - b. Holy Spirit baptism was administered on 2 occasions.
 - 1) (Acts 2) The apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) (Acts 10) Cornelius and his household received Holy Spirit baptism.
 - c. The Lord never commanded everyone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 3. Is it the baptism of fire?
 - a. No, the baptism of fire will occur in the future.
 - b. It is the eternal punishment that the wicked will receive at the judgment.
 4. That leaves only one -- the "*one baptism*" of Ephesians 4:5 is the baptism that was commanded by Christ in the Great Commission.
 - a. This baptism is for "all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - b. This is the baptism that the people in Ephesus received (Acts 19:5).
- II. LET US EXAMINE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "*ONE BAPTISM*"
 - A. The "*one baptism*" has certain prerequisites.
 1. It must be preceded by belief (Mark 16:16).
 2. It must be preceded by repentance (Acts 2:38).
 3. It must be preceded by a confession of Christ (Acts 8:36-37).
 - B. The "*one baptism*" is to be administered in a certain manner.
 1. It is in water (Acts 8:38).
 2. It is a burial (Colossians 2:12).
 - C. The "*one baptism*" has certain purposes.
 1. It is necessary for salvation (1 Peter 3:21).
 - a. Sins are washed away at baptism (Acts 22:16).
 - b. It is for the "remission" [removal, forgiveness] of sins (Acts 2:38).
 2. It puts a person into Christ (Galatians 3:27).
 3. It puts a person into the one body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 - D. Even though the Bible clearly describes and explains the "*one baptism*," . . .
- III. THERE ARE OTHER BAPTISMS PRACTICED TODAY
 - A. For example, there are some who:
 1. christen babies (babies cannot believe or confess Christ, and they have no sins to repent of)

2. practice sprinkling (baptism is immersion or a burial)
 3. baptize those who have already seen saved (the Bible places salvation after baptism)
 4. are baptized to become members of denominations.
- B. Occasionally, a person will study these matters and will realize that he/she has not received the *"one baptism"* -- a question is often asked.
- IV. IF I RECEIVED A BAPTISM OTHER THAN THE *"ONE BAPTISM"* OF EPHESIANS 4:5, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?
- A. This is a good question that deserves a Bible answer.
- B. Fortunately, we have Acts 19:1-7 to answer it.
1. In Ephesus, Paul contacted some people who had received John's baptism.
 - a. Earlier (18:24), Apollos had been preaching in Ephesus.
 - b. (18:25) This man only knew the baptism of John.
 - c. At one time John's baptism had been valid (John 1:33 -- God had sent John to baptize).
 - d. John's baptism was no longer valid because it had been replaced by the baptism commanded by Christ in the Great Commission.
 2. After Paul taught these people, they *"were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus"* [received the baptism commanded by Christ].
- C. Here, we have an example of some people who had been baptized, but they had not been baptized correctly -- *they received the "one baptism" Jesus commanded in the Great Commission.*

Conclusion:

1. If you have not obeyed the Gospel, we have shown from the Bible what you need to do.
2. If you have received a baptism other than the *"one baptism"* that we read about in Ephesians 4:5, we have shown from the Bible what you need to do.
3. Let us close with Acts 22:16.