



A Thought About Baptism (Acts 2:38)

Tim Canup

When the subject of baptism arises, much controversy is always associated with it. Such ought not to be. If one has an honest heart, they will search God's Word to see "What saith the

Scriptures?" If one desires to know the truth about baptism, then the truth can be found in God's Word.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus commanded baptism as a condition for salvation. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles (John 14-16) and on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) that promise was fulfilled. The purpose of this promise was so that the apostles would be "guided into all truth." In Acts 2, being overwhelmed (baptized) by the Holy Spirit, they began to speak as they were guided. The message they spoke was the gospel of Jesus Christ, based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (verses 14-36). At the conclusion of that sermon, there were some who were pricked in their heart and asked, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

The center of controversy on this verse is based on the use of the Greek preposition (eis – pronounce ace) that is translated in the King James Version as "for the remission of sins." There have been some so-called Greek scholars who have offered a definition of this preposition in this particular verse of "because of". Of the 1773 times this preposition is used, not once can it be accurately translated "because of". The real meaning of this word is "in order to, for, with a view to".

To determine if a definition is accurate, simply plug it into the sentence and see if it makes sense. Notice the use of this word in Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for (eis) the remission of sins." Did Jesus shed His blood

“because of” the remission of sins (because sins had been remitted or forgiven), or did He shed His blood in order to (or for the purpose of) the remission of sins? Jesus shed His blood in order to remit our sins. Another example is Acts 3:19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that (eis) your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” Again, are we to be converted because our sins may be blotted out? Of course not! In the July 1877 issue of the Baptist Quarterly, J. W. Willmarth, a well-respected Baptist preacher and Greek scholar correctly noted that to translate the Greek preposition *eis* as “in order to” is to translate it correctly.

Dear friends, when Jesus stated the conditions for salvation, He did not use vague or unclear terms. Jesus said, based on our faith, we are to be baptized for the remission of our sins (to have sins taken away). We are now faced with the decision of choosing between what Jesus said and what men say today. What will be your choice?

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