**NO Reason To Be Baptized…UNLESS…**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 4th, 2019

Text: I Cor. 12:13-14

### Intro

1. Mankind was created free moral agents and do not have to do anything we don’t want to do!
   1. Of course, there have always been consequences for some choices (breaking the law…)
2. God does not force anyone to be obedient, or to even serve Him.
   1. Deut. 30:19: Moses told Israel they had to choose: life or death; blessing or curse (Joshua too in Joshua 24:15)
3. God never used the method of force to get one to serve Him.
   1. Ps. 110:3: “Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power.”
   2. Rom. 12:1: “Therefore I urge you…” (urging is to strongly suggest, not force)
   3. I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9: God ***wants*** all men to be saved!
4. Jesus encourages us to come to Him (not force – He pleads).
   1. Mt. 11:28-30: Jesus says come to Him if you want rest for your souls.
   2. This was true of Adam and Eve in the beauty of paradise: God admonished; but He did not force. (They made the wrong choice – Gen. 3:1-6)
   3. This was true in the days that Christ walked upon the earth. He did not force, but instead pleaded with wayward Israel *(Mt. 23:37-39).* (They made wrong choice – Mt. 21:43)
5. The same is true today: We are still free moral agents!
   1. There are still consequences for our actions, both good and bad (Mt. 7:13-14; 25:46)
   2. Like Israel of old, do we choose life or death? *(Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15)*
6. Are we making the right choices?
7. There is NO reason to be baptized…*UNLESS…*

#### UNLESS you want to accept the word of God

* 1. Mt. 28:18-20: Jesus said to teach the world of salvation; to be baptized is to accept His council to be saved! (Mk. 16:15-16)
  2. Acts 16:30-34: The Jailor and his household accepted the council of God and were saved!
  3. If you don’t choose to follow the word of God, there is no reason to be baptized!

#### UNLESS you want to accept Christ’s blood

* 1. The life of the body is in the blood; fleshly and spiritually.
     1. Lev. 17:11: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”
     2. I Cor. 15:1-4: The gospel message is that Christ died for our sins.
     3. Rom. 6:3-5, 16-17: We are baptized into His name, His death and share in His burial and resurrection – Baptism is that obedience “from the heart.”
     4. I Jn. 1:7: His blood cleanses us from our sins! (Eph. 1:7)
  2. Acts 22:16: Baptism “washes away” our sins by accepting His blood (I Jn. 1:7).
  3. If you don’t want to be cleansed from sin, then there is no reason to be baptized!

#### UNLESS you want to enter the body/church of Christ

* 1. I Cor. 12:13-14: “We were all baptized into one body.” To have His blood, must be part of His body!
     1. The “body of Christ” is the church – Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18
     2. Eph. 4:4-6: The “one body” is the church; entrance is in baptism! (I Cor. 12:13)
     3. Acts 2:41, 47: God adds those who are obedient in baptism to His church!
  2. Eph. 5:23: Jesus is the “Savior of the body” *(Acts 20:28; Col. 1:18: Christ purchased the church with His own blood)* – Important to be in the body to be saved!
  3. Gal. 3:26-28: Through baptism we are made “one in Christ Jesus.”
  4. If you don’t want to be “in Christ,” or saved in “the body,” or to be a part of the church Jesus died for *(Acts 20:28),* there is no reason to be baptized!

#### UNLESS you want forgiveness of sins

* 1. Acts 2:36-41: The act of obedience in baptism leads to the forgiveness of sins!
     1. Baptism also the way to call on His name (obedience – Joel 2:32; Acts 2:16-21; Rom. 10:13)
  2. Acts 22:16: Ananias (22:12) told Saul (Paul) to be baptized to wash away his sins!
     1. Baptism also the way to call on His name (obedience – Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13)
  3. If you don’t want to be forgiven, then there is no reason to be baptized!

#### UNLESS you want to be saved

* 1. Mk. 16:16: Jesus gave two choices here: To believe in Him (and accept His council) and be baptized to be saved; or not believe Him (not accept His council) and not be saved – you won’t be baptized if you don’t believe Him!
  2. I Peter 1:22-23: One must be obedient from the heart – obey the word of God (Jn. 12:48: Jesus said His word will judge men; His word said to be baptized to be saved!).
  3. I Peter 3:21: “Baptism now saves you.”
     1. In the way water saved Noah by washing away the filth of mankind (3:20) of the world.
     2. Baptism saves us, not a mere bath, but an act of obedience, appealing to God for a good conscience.
  4. If you don’t want to be saved from the wrath of God, there is no reason to be baptized!

#### UNLESS you want to make Heaven your home

* 1. Rev. 2:7: Must overcome the trials of life to enter God’s paradise *(Mt. 11:28-30: Rest).*
  2. Rev. 2:10: Must overcome to receive the crown of life!
  3. Rev. 21:3-7: Those who overcome inherit Heaven and all its bliss!
     1. Rev. 14:13: Blessed are they that “die in the Lord” for they have rest!
  4. Mt. 7:21: The one who does the will of God will enter Heaven! *(Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16)*
  5. Heaven is a beautiful place – God is there and is its Maker.
  6. If you don’t *want* to be there, then there is no reason to be baptized!

## Conclusion

1. Other than those reasons…YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED!
2. You can choose to do nothing or even choose to hold to a form of godliness and go to the alternative…Mt. 7:21-23; *25:31-34, 41, 46:* We choose to be on the right or the left of Jesus!
3. You don’t have to do one thing in obedience to God, but if you don’t do God’s will, then you will be parted to Jesus’ left on the Day of Judgment to eternal punishment! *(II Cor. 5:10; Mt. 25:41)*
   1. In choosing the paths we each take we also accept the consequences or rewards that come with those decisions – Mt. 7:13-14; *Mt. 25:31-46:* Eternal life or eternal punishment!
4. If you do want to be saved and inherit Heaven, then choose to obey the gospel and live faithfully to God!
5. If you are not a Christian, choose the right path, the one that leads to life. Repent and be baptized! Live your life anew for God!
6. If a Christian in error, Repent & be renewed. Remember from what you have been saved from!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!