

BAPTISM, A SECOND TIME?

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Question - Preacher, a family from a local Christian Church placed membership with us. One of the elders made an 'official' announcement that this family had been baptized in the Christian Church, and that they felt their baptism was sufficient and would not be re-baptized in the Church of Christ. The elder's implication was that they would be more *assured* of their salvation if they re-did it."—*Name Withheld*.

Answer - Your remarks remind me of how often in my past I taught and preached the concept that anyone not immersed *in* the Church of Christ *by* an Elder or Pulpit Minister of the Church of Christ needed to be re-immersed. I chuckle now of how spiritually immature I was, and how gracious my Lord was in tolerating me until I matured enough to fly out of the partisan nest in which I had been hatched.

I also chuckle of how very silly this "re-immersion" creed is. It is like my saying, "Look, I expected to be born in a big city hospital, but instead I was born at home, in a Kentucky hollow. I insist that I be born all over again."

This "home-made" example is just as ridiculous as re-immersing a responsive person who has already been immersed. The second immersion is nothing more than placing the cleric's "evangelistic successes" on public display and giving the candidate his/her second bath of the day — assuming he/she bathed before "leaving for church."

I think we have a long way to go before recovering. On the other hand, I am quite happy that many of us are reaching for greater heights in our walk with the Lord.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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