

## "BAPTISM - PHYSICALLY UNABLE...?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

I became a Christian on August 25, 1963, along with my wife (Shara) when we were baptized by immersion in water in Follansbee, WV. As I understood baptism it was more than just a **formality**. Some have told me that baptism is to be administered after one is saved from their sins. This person says it is "an outward sign of an inward grace."

However, as I have studied the Scriptures - I contend that **baptism is more than the above**, according to the Bible. It is the action in which one has their state changed from lost to saved according to Acts 2:38, which states one has their sins forgiven at baptism.

If one can **make an "open minded" observation about baptism**, the following can be concluded:

- A) At the **wedding altar**, the state is changed from single to married.
- B) At the **military induction ceremony**, a person's status is changed from civilian to military personnel.
- C) At the **property closing**, a deed is changed to new owner.
- D) At the time of **paying an insurance premium**, a policy becomes effective.

Now, if an intelligent person can grasp the above, **why is there so much confusion** as to the importance of baptism, as being the dividing line between the lost and the saved?

**Jesus** said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16).

**Peter** said, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (Acts 2:38). "...this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you..." (1 Peter 3:21).

**Paul** says, "or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3). When one is baptized into Christ's death, he contacts His blood, since Jesus' blood was shed in His death. Thus, the song, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" It is the blood that saves us, but Jesus said to use water to contact it.

Now, **if one is in ill health and can not be immersed - what then?** Is this person lost and doomed to hell? May we remember that God is the final judge and not man, as pertaining to man's eternal destination. The above Scriptures do teach that one needs to be baptized to be saved, but if God wants to make exceptions - that is His business, isn't it?

I have been preaching since 1967 and have baptized (immersed) many people in hospital and nursing home bath tubs and therapy tanks. I have discovered **where there is a will - there is a way**.

If you have not been **properly baptized**, (immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins) why not take care of this immediately?