

# **“Baptism: Not the Removal...”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## Introduction:

A. It was said that the old, African-American gospel preacher Marshall Keeble baptized or was responsible for the baptisms of over 40,000 people. He would go into a community and be well received even among white brethren, who in Keeble’s day were strongly prejudiced against any black man. Keeble himself is reported to have said, “Christ is stronger than color.” Keeble was born in 1878 and died in 1968. His widow, Laura Keeble, passed away six years ago at age 108. No gospel preacher in the history of this country baptized as many people as he did, preaching sermons like “There’s Water in the Plan,” “All Men are One in Christ,” and “The Physician Who Never Lost a Case.” But after his ministry ended, biographers found it difficult to find persons who had been baptized by him. While some had moved or passed away, most had fallen away. The trouble was, Keeble did what so many preachers have done over the years; he did not follow up with edification. As one brother contemporary with him wrote in his biography, “Brother Keeble converted people to baptism, not to Christ.”

B. We are accustomed to extreme doctrines in the religious world

1. One of the most common is the that baptism is not necessary for salvation, or any variation that reduces its importance and efficacy
2. Have you heard of the other extreme held by misled fellow disciples who believe that baptism will do more than is revealed?
  - a. “I just want to get my child, mate, parent, best friend baptized.”
  - b. “But he (she) was baptized! What happened?”
3. There are some things baptism cannot do

## **I. WHAT IS THE REVEALED PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?**

- A. The removal of sins - Acts 2:38, 22:16
- B. Salvation from the consequences of sins - Mark 16:16; 1Peter 3:21
- C. Entrance into the church - Acts 2:47; 1Cor. 12:13
- D. Puts one into Christ - Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-6

## **II. WHAT IS BAPTISM IS NOT DESIGNED TO DO**

- A. Baptism does not remove temptation.
  1. The appeal of sin does not go disappear after baptism
  2. Jesus was tempted after He was baptized - Matt. 4:1-11
  3. Christians will suffer temptation - James 1:2-3, 12-15; 1Cor. 10:12-13
  4. Temptation may increase after baptism - Eph. 6:11
- B. Baptism does not keep one sinless.
  1. No one is without sin - Rom. 3:10, 23
  2. That includes baptized believers - 1John 1:8 - 2:1
- C. Baptism does not guarantee eternal salvation.
  1. Salvation is spoken of in two ways:
    - a. Salvation from past sins - Mark 16:16
    - b. Eternal salvation in heaven - 1Peter 1:3-5

2. A number of scriptures admonish Christians about losing salvation
    - a. Gal. 6:1; Acts 8:18-23; Luke 9:62
  3. Baptism is not the end of one's obedience, but the beginning
    - a. Rom. 6:11-13
- D. Baptism does not guarantee membership in a local church
1. Acts 9:26-28, 18:27; 2John 10

Conclusion:

- A. Baptism is crucial for salvation; you cannot be saved without it, but baptism alone will not save any more than faith alone.
  1. Never minimize what baptism can do; at the same time, don't expect it to do more than what God promised it would do in His word.