

Baptismal Spin

1. Water baptism seems to be the way people want vs ‘spiritual’ baptism, as taught by Paul.
2. Watching a pastor ‘spin’ his teaching is very irritating to me. People are easily ‘spun’ these days simply because people simply don’t know the scriptures today.

This is my critique of a local ‘newspaper pastoral article’ written by a local pastor that ‘sounds’ like he teaches Paul’s doctrine but, in all reality, he does not – along with the other 99.9% that say they do but in all truth, do not. However, if someone were to quickly read or skim through (as most people do these days and yet blindly believe pastoral writings) this pastor’s article on baptism, most people would think this would be a good article about the need for a simple water baptism to convert everyone into becoming a Christian. They would also take note and think this is ‘from Paul.’

The reader would simply think this all makes water baptism look wonderful and ‘impressive.’ In fact, if the reader has not already been water baptized, or if they know nothing about ‘the operation made without hands,” etc., they probably would want to go out and get that water baptism right away. This article is, at first read, convincing to the light-reader that one needs a water baptism for their eternal salvation and if he were to be interested, he would also seek to have someone ‘supposedly’ explain how it happens – although this pastor is tremendously incorrect in his assumptions, teachings and conclusion about water baptism.

As one of the readers now, you might already think you see your water baptism as an important step for your salvation, depending upon which denomination you belong. Water baptism is one of the supposed two ordinances of the Baptist church; other denominations teach that for a baby to become a child of God they need to be baptized as soon as possible, as a baby / young adult, which then requires waiting for their confirmation / Lord’s supper to supposedly receive the Holy Spirit. Obviously, there are many variations of water baptismal beliefs and note the details of a water baptism are as confusing and silly to the point of laughing as is the Lord’s Supper / Communion, as well.

To make matters worse in truth – or ‘better in your own eyes’ - this pastor is misleading the reader into an even deeper untruth as he tries to show you how important water baptism is and how it ‘creates’ your salvation by being the ‘operation made without hands’ in Colossians chapter 2, fulfilling the scriptural description of his being an evil and seducing man who is deceived as he deceives others with what his teachers, professors, seminaries and bible colleges have taught.

In this particular ‘commentary / review / critique, I want to try to show you how someone who says they follow Paul, truly does not follow Paul at all and how he, in such a subtle fashion of ‘spin,’ make it look like he does. Watch how he quietly ‘spins’ his comments and how he sneaks in the gospels along with a few completely incorrect ‘assumptions’ that leads to his completely bogus conclusion about **Colossians 2:11-14**.

To try and make it ‘visually easier’ for you to see my comments separate from the article itself, I have set the article’s writings in black italics and have made my comments in **bold blue type**.

However, I would suggest you read the black italicized print of the entire article first; then go back and read it again, with my comments inserted. I also suggest you read this stuff out loud by yourself. I believe we all just think better and stay on mental task better when we read something aloud. - Paulson

The Blessings Won by Christ are Given to Us in Baptism

A Series from Paul’s Letter to the Colossians *by Randy _____*

Comments by Mikel Paulson

"Ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross."

Colossians 2:11-14.

Well, it appears that he used a King James Bible – at least for this article. By now, he probably has now gained the reader’s trust. After all, he must be a King James guy... right?

He goes on...

Why would anyone want to insist that it is necessary for a Christian to be circumcised and follow all the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament to be saved when believers are complete in Jesus and are blessed with all that they need through their baptism into Christ Jesus?

He does ask a potentially interesting question making two simple assumptions that start the spin spinning, without the reader knowing he has already bit the bait and is now in the process of being reeled in.

Assumption one: By mocking the physical circumcision operation and absurdity of us doing the same as Gentiles but with us making it our salvation process.

Assumption two: He then slips in the need for a water baptism instead of a physical operation.

However, as you will see as you read his article, the ‘baptism’ he is referring to is a water baptism. When anyone sees the word ‘baptism,’ they think of water baptism - that is all anyone knows.

When it comes to the confusion of a water baptism, though, the issues are always:

a) before, for or after salvation – or just an object or a typology type of lesson/sermon?

- b) horse tank, river, lake, expensive church baptismal or public/private swimming pool, or will just a little sprinkle do?
- c) baby, teen, or adult?
- d) for salvation, for an object lesson or is it to become a child of God only later to be confirmed?
- e) sprinkle, pour from a cup, slow/fast dip or completely submerged?
- f) with clothes still on or with white see-through sheet/robe?
- g) private or public?
- h) clean water, pure water, water with fish, warm water, cold water?
- i) indoor or outdoor?
- j) spoken 'in the name of Jesus' or 'in the name of the Holy Ghost' or 'in the name of the Holy Spirit'?
- k) who does the baptizing – official state approved pastor, a Baptist pastor who was baptized by a pastor who was baptized by a pastor all the way back to John the Baptist, acting pastor, layman, woman, or can just anyone baptize someone, or do they have to be 'deputized' by the 'senior pastor'?
- l) was it by a local 'accepted' denomination or just a home church – or maybe no local church was involved?
- m) what if there is no water around and the person is in his last moments of living?

In my years of preaching, etc. I have never heard anyone say that a physical circumcision was ever a means of salvation for a Gentile. (In fact, the circumcision was not even for a Jewish 'salvation.') So, with that absurd thought being acceptably and understandably rejected, he then moves into the word 'baptism.'

Simply put, this writer is trying to get you to see that the circumcision mentioned in Colossians is a water baptism.

*Old Testament circumcision (**Genesis 17**) was a cutting away of the flesh, performed by human hands, which indicated that one (not just any 'one' but only a JEWISH one) had entered into God's covenant with man (not just any man, but only a JEWISH man) in which God promised to send a Messiah and Savior of the descendants of Abraham to redeem fallen mankind (through the Jews – the Great Commission). It signified that a man (again, a JEWISH MAN) could not stand before God in the power of his own flesh (they had to clean off their sins with the blood of bulls and goats, etc. but yes, it was still in their own power. Remember – this is old testament works),*

*Then he throws this quickie at you... but through the promised Seed of Abraham -- Jesus Christ. Ah, but the Jews rejected Christ and now and suddenly, the writer just slipped you from OT to NT by commenting on Abraham's promise in **Romans 4**.*

From this point on, he will major on water baptism. He has done the 'spin!' He has you thinking that the circumcision in Colossians is really a water baptism.

Ta-da – you have been spun to an early conclusion and now he will continue to bolster your new opinionated teaching.

Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19; cf. Acts 2:38-39) has replaced and superseded circumcision as the sign and means of becoming a recipient of God's covenant with man. Not true at all –

1. **Wrong Assumption / wrong conclusion! The circumcision from the OT was for JEWS ONLY! That circumcision was not about us Gentiles at all!**
2. **He is referring back to the Great Commission and the early church. That is NOT the commission description for today.**
3. **He has turned to the teachings of the ‘apostle’s doctrine’ through Peter, completely rejecting what Paul says about baptism being a spiritual baptism and NOT a water baptism. Paul even calls those early baptisms as baptisms of John. Those baptisms before Paul were ‘outdated’ in Paul’s time. John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. While in Paul’s early ministry to the Jews, he did provide a few baptisms – but when he got to the Gentiles only, those baptisms were no longer needed. During Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles and to this day, a water baptism means nothing. It certainly is NOT the operation made without hands as written in Colossians and as this writer professes to his blinded and deceived readers.**
4. **Paul’s ministry was to preach the SPIRITUAL kingdom of God, NOT the physical kingdom heaven. A water baptism was a part of the physical kingdom of God as were temple buildings, etc. Paul’s ministry is all about the spiritual ‘kingdom of God’ - Acts 28:31 *Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.****
5. **The water baptism days of John were for remission, not complete forgiveness never to even be imputed as well as being dead to the law, as Paul teaches to us today. Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, 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.* Today, a water baptism makes one wet and it makes a horrible ‘object lesson’ for a sermon because it would be a lie. A water baptism for any reason simply continues the deceiving that the deceived pastor has adapted for himself and his congregation / readers, etc.**
6. **Now that he has you thinking water baptism is the ‘circumcision without hands.’ He goes on...and impresses the ‘quick and easy reader.’ The only conclusion the reader / congregation has is that their pastor is such a wonderful guy to know this stuff – as God surely must have taught him that directly, so they follow him and turn their entire eternal life over to him – and toss out any and all bibles.**

Now that he really has you spinning, and he wants to impress you even more during y9our spin, he continues by saying... *But baptism is so much more...*

Circumcision was performed by human hands. Baptism, though administered by the hand of a minister (or, in the case of emergency, a believer (there ya go – in case of an emergency?...what if the emergency also has NO WATER available, no lake, etc), is a work of the Triune God and administered in His name. It is God's work. (Uh, no! Not true at all! - But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.)

Now you have it – you have been spun to his false conclusion! *Baptism is called "the circumcision of Christ" because the one who is baptized into Christ is joined to Christ in His death and in His resurrection.*

He goes on and most readers are now in awe of this ‘called’ ‘man of God!’

The sins and fallen nature of man (the sinful flesh) are buried with Christ in baptism (assuming this is about a water baptism); for Christ Jesus, on the cross, paid in full for the sins of the entire world. He died our death for us and took the just condemnation of God's law in our place. He blotted out "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross."

Though God's holy law condemned us all, Jesus suffered our punishment that we might be forgiven and acquitted through faith in Christ Jesus. Remember, our works still have to be judged so we aren't entirely ‘acquitted’ – we are forgiven and we are made free from sin, we are now dead unto sin and dead to the law and so those ‘bad works and works of the flesh, etc.’ are not imputed. His righteousness is imputed to us – but our works still must be judged. Romans 4:13; Romans 6:2,11,18; Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10; II Corinthians 3:9-15.

Not only is the Christian (loosely defined term improperly and incorrectly used today) joined with Christ in His death through baptism (there ya go again, assuming we are talking about water baptism), having all his sins blotted out and washed away through Jesus' sacrifice (and there IS SO MUCH MORE HERE – but only in Paul's gospel! especially in Romans 4-8); he is also joined to Christ in His resurrection, so that as God raised up Jesus from the dead on the third day, after He had made atonement for the sins of all, so also He through the "operation of" the Holy Spirit raises up to faith and new life those joined to Christ. Ok, that is correct... but the means to obtain this place has been incorrect. It is NOT a water baptism that brings these spiritual blessings.

As Paul writes, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses." Ok, again that is correct... but the means to obtain this place has been incorrect. It is NOT a water baptism that brings these spiritual blessings.!

In his letter to Titus, Paul writes by inspiration of God's Spirit: "But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being

*justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (**Titus 3:4-7**). **Ok, that's correct KJB... but the means to obtain this place has been incorrect. It is NOT a water baptism that brings these spiritual blessings. Wouldn't you think that a physical water baptism would be considered a 'work of righteousness'? Of course!***

*Thus, we see (**NO, we don't see what you are saying – you are teaching profane and vain babblings**) that through Baptism (**if you mean by a water baptism, then NO!**) God washes away sins and grants His life-giving Spirit, who creates and strengthens faith in Christ Jesus. Through baptism, (**if you mean a water baptism, then NO!**) God offers and gives to us all the blessings which Jesus won for us upon the cross and makes them our own. In and through baptism, (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO!**) God offers and gives forgiveness of sins and life eternal in His Son, Jesus Christ!*

*Baptism is so much more than an outward profession of faith in Jesus. Rather, it is the means through which God graciously works to make all of the blessings won for us by Jesus our own! (**if you mean a water baptism, then NO!**)*

*Therefore, if one has been baptized (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO!**) into Christ and has God's forgiveness, His life-giving Spirit and the certainty of life everlasting for Jesus' sake, why would he want to go back to Old Testament circumcision and the old covenant which pointed ahead to Christ and the salvation he has provided for all? In Baptism, (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO!**) Christians are joined to Jesus and are complete in Him! (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO, you are NOT 'joined in Jesus' – you are still incomplete – you are NOT saved – you have been had by a spinning denominational pastor!**)*

*Thank You, gracious Father, for working through our baptism (**If you mean by a water baptism, then NO, Christ did NOT work through that water baptism**) to wash away our sins for Jesus' sake (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO! Your sins are still not washed away!**) and to raise us up (**If you mean a water baptism, then NO!**) - contrary to your favorite Christian song, you are still NOT RASED UP!) to new life... (**if you mean by a water baptism, then NO!- you still have the 'old man' on and are NOT dead to sin, you have NOT been made free from sin, etc.**)*

...in fellowship with You through the gracious working of the Holy Spirit. Keep us in the true and saving faith unto life everlasting for Jesus' sake.

I am sorry dear readers, but you have been KEPT OUT of a true and saving faith if you have been listening to that pastor tell you that water baptism is your mode of salvation through the operation made without hands. You have been deceived by a pastor who has been deceived by not rightly dividing the word of truth. Thus, he preaches and teaches profane and vain babblings, of which you have been 'spun' to follow. Amen. Yes, Amen!

I just wish people would go back to a simple to understand rightly divided King James 1611 Bible. It clears up everything!