

907. βαπτίζω baptizo, bap-tid'-zo,

from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to makewhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism:-- Baptist, baptize, wash.

911. βαπτω baptō, bap'-to

a primary verb; to overwhelm, i.e. cover wholly with a fluid; in the New Testament only in a qualified or special sense, i.e. (literally) to moisten (a part of one's person), or (by implication) to stain (as with dye):--dip.

Arguments against immersion

* *From catholicapologetics.info*

In the New Testament there cannot be found a *Single Well-authenticated* instance of the occurrence of the word where it *necessarily* means immersion.

Moreover, none of the instances of baptism recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (2:38-41; 8:26-39; 9:17, 18; 22:12-16; 10:44-48; 16:32-34) favors the idea that it was by dipping the person baptized, or by immersion, while in some of them such a mode was impossible.

Arguments against immersion

* *From catholicapologetics.info*

Ananias baptized *St. Paul* where he found him *in the House of Judas* in Damascus, In fact, he was baptized standing up.

When Ananias came to baptize him, he said: "And now why do you wait? Rise [literally, "stand up"] and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16).

Arguments against immersion

* *From catholicapologetics.info*

" After the foregoing instructions, baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in living [running] water. If you have no living water, then baptize in other water, and if you are not able in cold, then in warm. If you have neither, *POUR WATER THREE TIMES ON THE HEAD, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.* Before baptism, let the one baptizing and the one to be baptized fast, as also any others who are able. Command the one who is to be baptized to fast beforehand for one or two days" (*Didache* [A.D. 70] 7:1).

Arguments against immersion

* *From catholicapologetics.info*

This is seconded by other early Christian writings. Hippolytus of Rome said, "if water is scarce, whether as a constant condition or on occasion, then use whatever water is available" (*The Apostolic Tradition*, 21; [A.D. 215]).

Infant Baptism

Irenaeus (cir. A.D. 130-200)

“He [Christ] came to save, through means of himself, all who through him are born again unto God — infants, children, and boys and youths, and old men”

(Against Heresies 2.22.4)

Infant Baptism

Tertullian (A.D. 160-220)

“Let them come while they are growing up; let them come while they are learning, while they are being taught to what it is they are coming; let them become Christians when they are susceptible of the knowledge of Christ. What haste to procure the forgiveness of sins for the age of innocence. . . Let them first learn to feel their need of salvation; so it may appear that we have given to those that wanted”

(On Baptism, 18)

Infant Baptism

Cyprian (200-258 AD)

“But if even the chief of sinners, who have been exceedingly guilty before God, receive the forgiveness of sins on coming to the faith, and no one is precluded from baptism and from grace, how less should the child be kept back, which, as it is but just born, cannot have sinned, but has only brought with it, by its descent from Adam, the infection of the old death; and which may the more easily obtain the remission of sins, because the sins which are forgiven it are not its own, but those of another”

(Epistle 58)

Infant Baptism

Origen (A.D. 185-254)

“Infants are baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Of what sins? Or when have they sinned? Or how can any reason of the laver in their case hold good, but according to that sense we mentioned even now — none is free from pollution, though the life be the length of one day upon the earth. And it is for that reason, because by the sacrament of baptism the pollution of our birth is taken away, that infants are baptized”

(Homily on Luke, 14:5)

Infant Baptism

Albert Taylor Bledsoe (1809-1877)

“It is an article of our faith, that ‘the baptism of young children (infants) is in any wise to be retained in the Church, as most agreeable to the institution of Christ.’ But yet, with all our searching, we have been unable to find, in the New Testament, a single express declaration, or word, in favor of Infant Baptism”

(Southern Review, St. Louis, Vol. XIV, April, 1874, p. 334)

Infant Baptism

H.A.W. Meyer

“The baptism of the children of Christians, of which no trace is found in the N.T., is not to be held as an apostolic ordinance, as, indeed, it encountered early and long resistance; but it is an institution of the church, which gradually arose in post-apostolic times in connection with the development of ecclesiastical life and of doctrinal teaching, not certainly attended before Tertullian, and by him still decidedly opposed, and, although defended by Cyprian, only becoming general after the time of Augustine in virtue of that connection”

(*Commentary on Acts* [16:15], New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1883, p. 312)

“Faith only” conversion

What happened to Jesus’ discussion with Nicodemus (John 3)?

Revelation 3:19-20

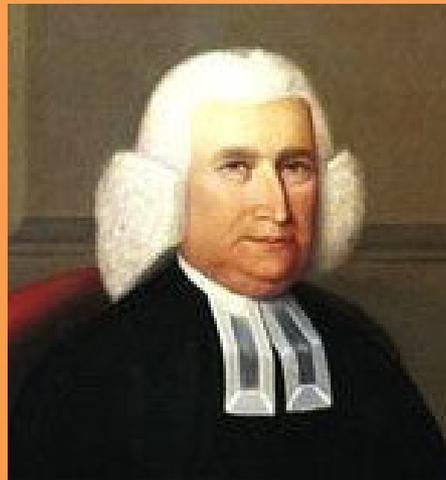
“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Revelation 3:19-20

John Webb: *“Here is a promise of Union to Christ; in these words, I will come in to him. i.e. If any Sinner will but hear my Voice and open the Door, and receive me by Faith, I will come into his Soul, and unite him to me, and make him a living member of that my mystical body of which I am the Head.”*

(Christ's Suit to the Sinner, 14)

Mourner's Seat (1741)

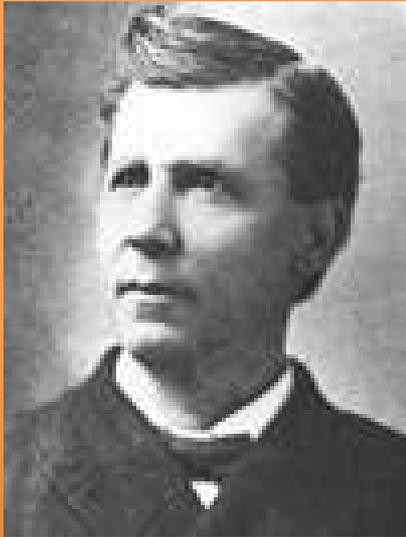


Eleazar Wheelock

Cane Ridge (1801)



Cane Ridge (1801)



J.V. Coombs

The appeals, songs, prayers and the suggestion from the preacher drive many into the trance state. I can remember in my boyhood days seeing ten or twenty people laying unconscious upon the floor in the old country church. People called that conversion. Science knows it is mesmeric influence, self-hypnotism ... It is sad that Christianity is compelled to bear the folly of such movements."
(Religious Delusions, 92ff).

Anxious Seat (1835)



Charles Finney
(1792-1875)

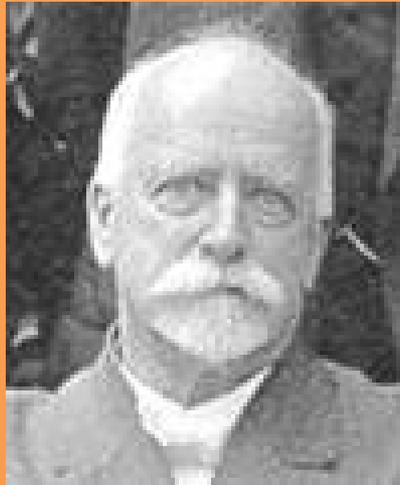
"The church has always felt it necessary to have something of this kind to answer this very purpose. In the days of the apostles, baptism answered this purpose. The gospel was preached to the people, and then all those who were willing to be on the side of Christ, were called out to be baptized. It held the place that the anxious seat does now as a public manifestation of their determination to be Christians"

Inquiry Room (1860's)



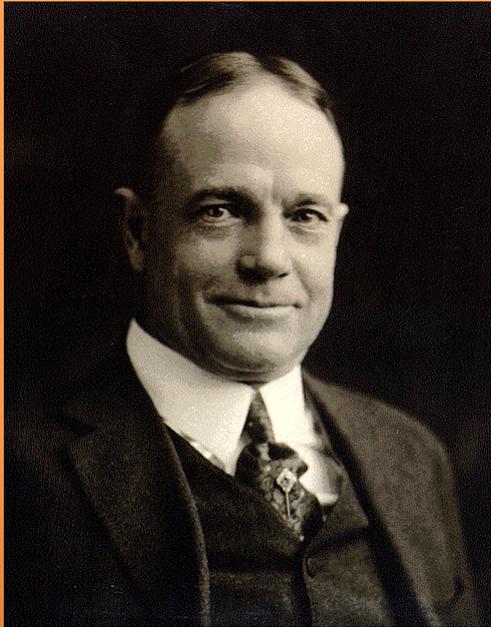
Dwight Moody
(1837-1899)

Instant Salvation



R. A. Torrey
(1856-1928)

Crusades



Billy Sunday
(1862-1935)



“Rage Against Satan”

4 Steps to Peace with God



Billy Graham

God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
That whoever believes in Him
Should not perish, but have
everlasting life

The Sinner's Prayer



Bill Bright

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

The Living Bible

John 1:11-13

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (NKJ)

*"Even in his own land and among his own people, the Jews, he was not accepted. Only a few welcome and received him. But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. **All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!** --not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan--but from the will of God." (Living Bible)*

Psychology?

It's Easy

Pressure

Nothing Public

It's in the numbers

For The Record!

John 3:23 “where there was much water”

Acts 2 “repent and be baptized... for the remission of sins.”

Romans 6:4 “buried with Him through baptism into death”

The only 2 questions left:

What must YOU do to be saved?

Why haven't you done it?