



Connecting to Colonial's Core – 2
May 31, 2015

Pastor Phelps
Acts 2:41

COMMITMENT #2 – BAPTIZED MEMBERS

The Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church begins with these words: *Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.*

Though virtually every church in Christendom practices some form of baptism, the Baptist church received its name because of its practice of immersion of professing believers. The first Baptists were derogatorily called _____ and were dreadfully persecuted over this issue.

- January 5, 1587, Felix Manz was sentenced to death, “because contrary to the Christian order and custom, he had become involved in Anabaptism.” Though he came to know the Savior through the ministry of the Reformer, Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich, his baptistic beliefs went beyond the Reformers and he was executed by _____ in Lake Zurich (*This Day in Baptist History*, p. 7)
- August 8, 1555, Robert Smith was burned at the stake in Uxbridge, England, because he declared, “To judge children damned that be not _____ is wicked” (Ibid, p. 261).
- July 24, 1595, Aeltgen Baten and Maeyken Wouters were cast into the River Muese because they would not recant their baptism by immersion (Ibid, p. 304).
- In October of 1654, Henry Dunster was forced to resign from the presidency of _____ because of his settled conviction that “visible believers only should be baptized,” and because of his unwillingness to have his infant son sprinkled (Ibid, p 81).
- In 1778, David Borrow was pressed in the mud of the James River in the State of Virginia and came up nearly drowning because he dared to preach the baptism of believers by immersion” (Ibid, p. 450).

In the open air, in comfortable buildings, by immersion, sprinkling, pouring upon infants and the dead, the matter of baptism has spawned tremendous debate and confusion. Colonial Hills Baptist Church joins with the persecuted of past generations in the practice of baptizing only professing _____ by immersion, because that is what the Bible teaches.

THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

There are over _____ New Testament references to the Greek word *baptizo*, from which we get our word “baptize.” Sixty-eight of those references refer to the ordinance

of baptism. Let’s let the Word speak for itself as to the persons that should be baptized.

THE _____ OF CHRIST (Matt. 28:19-20).
 THE _____ OF THE EARLY CHURCH (Acts 2:38, 8:34-37; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 31-33; 18:8).
 THE _____ OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 3:7-8).
 Most churches in Christendom practice infant baptism. Yet, there is not one reference in the New Testament to warrant such a practice! The New Testament teaches that only a believer should be a candidate for baptism.

In *The Catechism of the Church of England* (Anglican and Episcopal) the following dialogue is recorded:

- Teacher – “What is your name?”
- Teacher – “Who gave you your name?”
- Student – “My godfathers and godmothers in my baptism; wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Does the Bible teach regeneration and salvation through the waters of baptism? Let the Bible answer: John 3:16; Rom. 10:13; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:17; Acts 2:21, 10:47, I Cor. 1:14; John 4:2.

THE PICTURE THAT SHOULD BE SEEN

Baptism is an ordinance of the church which presents a clear message for all to ponder.

IT IS A _____ PICTURE

- The word, “baptize,” means to _____ or to immerse. Luther said, “Baptism is *baptizmos* in Greek, *mersio* in Latin. It means to plunge something completely into the water so that the water covers it.” Even John Calvin said, “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse; and the rite of immersion was observed by the ancient church.”
- The Scriptures consistently show that the practice of baptism was a practice of immersion (Matt. 3:16; Mk. 1:10; Jn. 3:23; Acts 8:38-40).

IT IS A _____ (Rom. 6:3-4).

THE PRIORITY THAT SHOULD BE GIVEN

In the *Record of Religious Societies and Churches of North Andover, NH*, there is an interesting account of a religious activity in _____. Apparently, 31 new converts were baptized in the Millstream. “So severely cold was the weather that ice formed on the open water in two minutes and the men and women who came up . . . were immediately confined in their movements by their garments which were frozen solid around them.”

BAPTISM IS AN ACT OF _____ (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 6:40; Acts 2:41; 8:36; 16:33).

BAPTISM IS AN ACT OF _____ (Rom. 6:4).

COLONIAL IS COMMITTED TO RECEIVE BELIEVERS WHO ARE BAPTIZED.