

Baptism

Wilbur Reid





A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village; the scholar has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age.

— *C. S. Lewis* —

AZ QUOTES

C·S· LEWIS

The
WEIGHT
of
Glory





Walter Scott (1796-1861)

Five Finger Exercise

1. Believe (*faith*)
2. Repent
3. Confess
4. Be Baptized
5. Holy Spirit / Christian Life

Note: there are other variations of the 5-finger exercise that are slightly different.



Plan of Salvation

Things we do.

Scripture	Faith	Repent	Confess	Baptism	Christian Life	
	Believe				Holy Spirit	
GOSPELS						
Mark 16:15,16	X			X		He that believes and is baptized shall be saved...
John 3:3-5				X		Must be born of water & spirit to enter kingdom of God
Matthew 10:32			X			Whoever shall confess me before men, I will confess before my father
Luke 13:3		X				Unless you repent, you will perish
Luke 15:7		X				Lost sheep: Joy in heaven over one repentant sinner
Matthew 28:19,20				X	X	Great Commission: go, teach, baptize
ACTS						
Acts 2:21	X					Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Joel 2:32). Matthew 7:21
Acts 2:37-41		X		X	X	Day of Pentecost - Repent and be baptized
Acts 8:12	X			X		Conversion of Samaritans
Acts 8:36-38				X		Conversion of Ethiopian Eunuch
Acts 10:43, 48	X			X		Conversion of Cornelius
Acts 16:13-15	X			X		Conversion of Lydia
Acts 16:29-34	X			X		Conversion of Phillippian jailer. Believe...and you will be saved. They were baptized.
Acts 17:30		X				God commands all people to repent
Acts 18:7-8	X			X		Conversion of Corinthians
Acts 19:1-5	X			X		Baptism of John the Baptists disciples
Acts 22:16, 9:18				X		Conversion of Saul - Be baptized, and wash away your sins...
LETTERS						
Romans 4:1-5	X					Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness
Romans 6:1-5				X		...we who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death
Romans 10:9,10	X		X			Confess...and believe...you will be saved
Galatians 3:27				X		For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
I Timothy 6:12			X			Eternal life...good confession
Hebrews 6:4-6					X	Warning against falling away
Hebrews 10:26,27					X	If we deliberately continue sinning...judgment
Hebrews 11:6	X					Without faith, it is impossible to please God
James 2:17-19					X	Faith without works is dead
I Peter 3:21				X		Baptism saves you...
II Peter 2:20-22					X	Its better to never have been saved, than to turn back on Christ
I John 1:9			X			If we confess our sins...he will forgive...
I John 4:15			X			Whoever shall confess...God dwells in him
Revelation 2:10					X	Be faithful...
Revelation 21:6,7					X	To him who overcomes...

Based on scripture, how do the following doctrines stand up: sinner's prayer saves you, baptism is optional, infant baptism is valid, once saved always saved?



Key Questions Regarding Baptism

WHY?

WHO?

HOW?

WHY?



Why should we be baptized?

- Mark 16:15-16 - He that believes and is baptized shall be saved
- Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins
- Acts 22:16 - Be baptized, and wash away your sins...
- Romans 6:3,4 - We who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death.
- Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ
- I Peter 3:21 - Baptism saves you...
- Matthew 28:18-19 - ... go, make disciples, baptizing them... teaching them...

Huldrych Zwingli



In this matter of baptism - if I may be pardoned for saying it - I can only conclude that all the doctors have been in error from the time of the apostles.... All the doctors have ascribed to the water a power which it does not have and the holy apostles did not teach.

AZ QUOTES



Charles Finney

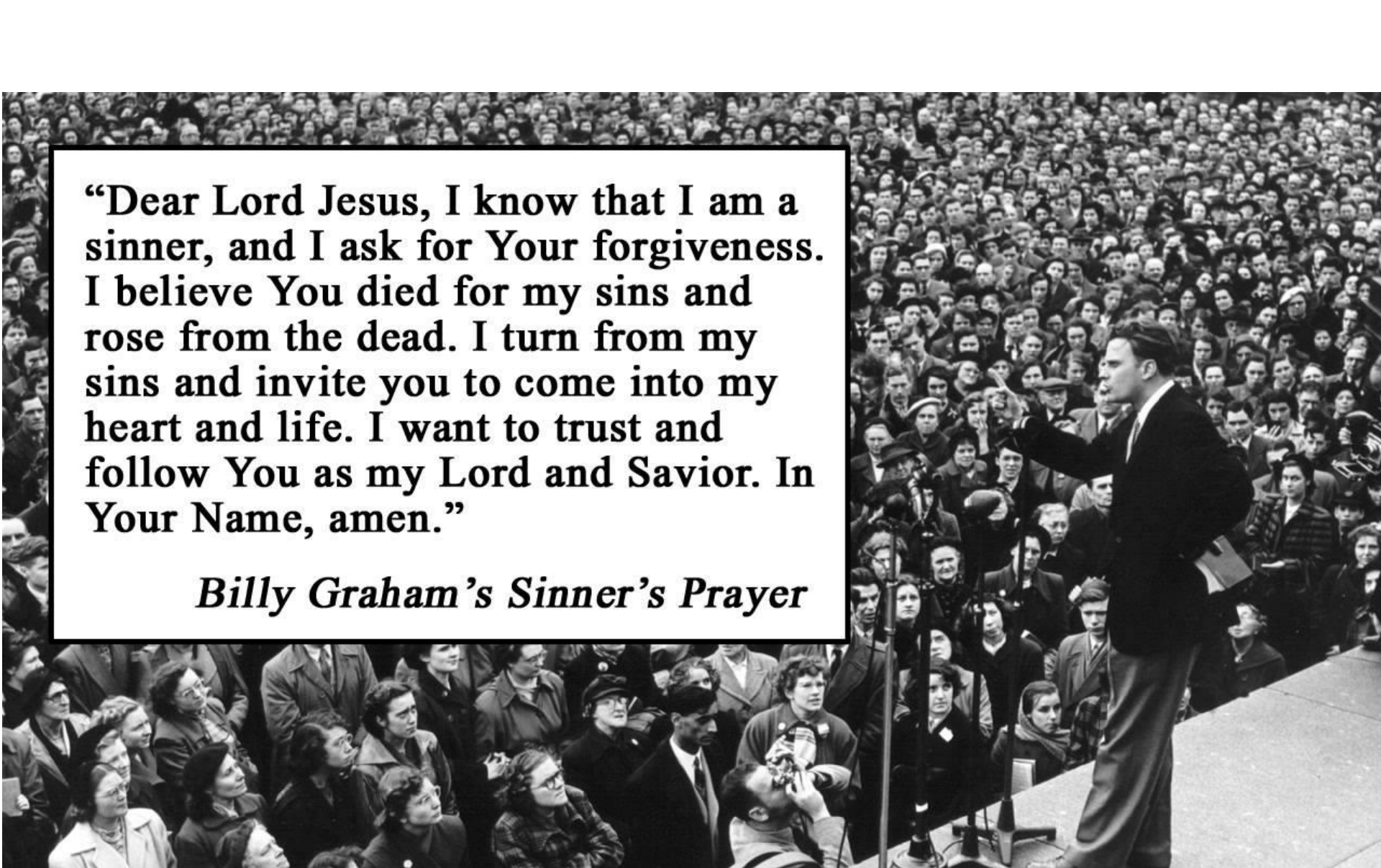
- Contemporary of Campbell and Stone
- Political and social causes, personal reform (works)
- Father of American Revivalism: mourner's seat – anxious seat – altar call - invitation
- “In the days of the apostles, baptism held the precise place that the anxious seat does now, as a public manifestation of people's desire to be Christians.”
- Legacy: Dwight L Moody, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, Promise Keepers, Jerry Falwell



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TO FIRE AND
BRIMSTONE –
HOW BILLY
SUNDAY
TRANSFORMED
AMERICAN
EVANGELISM**



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“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name, amen.”

Billy Graham's Sinner's Prayer

Sinner's Prayer

- Origins: Reformation, revivals, Dwight Moody, Billy Sunday
- Brought to prominence: Billy Graham, Campus Crusade for Christ, televangelists
- **Revelation 3:20:** *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*
- **Romans 10:9** *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved... ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*





WHAT IS
BAPTISMAL REGENERATION?

Baptismal
regenerationalists

- Baptism in water is the actual moment of salvation
- Restoration movement, Catholics, Lutherans, some Anglicans and Pentecostals





Original Sin and Total Depravity

- Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430) in response to Pelagius
- Scriptural basis:
 - Psalm 51:5, "I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me";
 - Paul's Epistle to the Romans, 5:12-21, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned..."
- Adam's sinful nature vs Adam's guilt

Original Sin and Total Depravity

- Alexander Campbell: *“In Adam, all have sinned; therefore ‘in Adam all die.’ Your nature, gentle reader, not your person, was in Adam when he put forth his hand to break the precept of Jehovah. You did not personally sin in that act; but your nature then in the person of your father, sinned against the Author of your existence. In the just judgment, therefore, of your heavenly Father, your nature sinned in Adam, and with him it is right, that all human beings should be born mortal, and that death should lord it over the whole race.”*
- Jack Cottrell: *“To sum it up, the individual’s spiritual odyssey begins with a theoretical original sin, which is canceled by Christ’s original grace, which is (at the age of accountability) canceled by personal sin, which may then be covered by personal grace.”*

Pedobaptism (or paedobaptism):

infant baptism

- Practiced by Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Orthodox
- Mode varies by denomination (sprinkling, pouring, and immersion)
- Purposes vary by denomination, but
 - Mirrors the act of circumcision of the Old Testament.
 - Removes the stain of original sin and bestows grace upon the child.
 - Baptism is generally considered essential for salvation.





Credobaptism: believer's baptism

- Practiced by Christian Churches / Churches of Christ, Baptists, and some Pentecostals
- Humans are innocent from birth to an age of accountability (usually considered to be about 8-12 years old)
- Purposes for baptism differ:
 - Christian Churches / Churches of Christ - holds that scriptural baptism consists of the immersion of penitent believers, the culmination of a process of salvation begun with faith in Jesus Christ, repentance of sin, and public confession of faith in Christ, followed by faithful service to Christ as part of a congregation of fellow believers.
 - Baptists - generally believe that baptism is an act of obedience but is not part of salvation ('first act of obedience'). It is an outward expression of an inward change that has already happened.





Method of baptism

- The Greek word 'baptizo' (baptism) literally means to immerse, plunge, or dip.
 - The Greek word for pour is 'ekcheo'; sprinkle is 'rhantizo'.
- Immersion simulates the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Colossians 2:11,12; Romans 6:3,4)
- Examples of baptisms infer immersion:
 - John 3:23 - John baptized at Aenon because there was plenty of water
 - Matthew 3:13-17 - Jesus' baptism, he went up out of the water
 - Acts 8:36 - Ethiopian Eunuch, went down into water... came up out of water
- Conclusion: Virtually all scholars agree that immersion was the mode of baptism in the New Testament church.
 - Everyone agrees that immersion is an acceptable mode of baptism, and it is gaining popularity, even in Catholic churches.
 - Those not using immersion today generally argue that the mode of the New Testament is not relevant to today's practice.

Didache (Chapter 7)

(1) Concerning baptism, baptize in this way. After you have spoken all these things, “baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” in running water.

(2) If you do not have running water, baptize [*baptizon*] in other water. If you are not able in cold, then in warm.

(3) If you do not have either, pour out [*ekcheo*] water three times on the head “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

(4) Before the baptism the one baptizing and the one being baptized are to fast, and any others who are able. Command the one being baptized to fast beforehand a day or two.



Key events in sprinkling and pouring

251, Novotian death bed 'baptism'

753, Pope Stephen permitted pouring and sprinkling in case of necessity

1311, Council of Ravenna declared immersion and sprinkling to be indifferent

1643, Westminster Assembly changed Presbyterian practice to sprinkling

1664, Parliament of England repeals immersion law, replaces with sprinkling

Christian Church Baptism

Why? For the
remission of
sins

Who?
Believers

How?
Immersion

What happens if we don't get it right?

- The New Testament teaches that believer's baptism is essential to salvation.
- *Caveat: God has the prerogative to save the pious unimmersed.*
 - There will be pious unimmersed in heaven.
- It is the responsibility of the church to teach prospective members the biblical purpose and mode of baptism.
- Following the example of the New Testament, all members of Christian Churches / Churches of Christ must be immersed as a believer in Christ.



QUESTIONS?

*Next week:
Communion*