

The Power Is Not In The Water

I. Introduction:

A. So often people focus on one aspect of the Scriptures and miss the rest (**Matthew 23:23-24**).

1. What happens when we think something is more important to God than He does (**Hosea 6:4-7**)?
2. How much of God's law is important (**James 2:8-12**)?

B. Many in the body of Christ overemphasize baptism thinking this is the most important thing in the N.T. It's not (**Acts 17:1-3**; cf. **I Corinthians 15:12-19**).

1. Yes, baptism is necessary in order for the lost to be saved (**I Peter 3:20-21**).
2. Yes, baptism puts one into Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**) and salvation is in Christ (**II Timothy 2:10**).
3. Yes, baptism is necessary to destroy sin (**Romans 6:3-6**).
4. It is WRONG to emphasize baptism in water as though the water is the most important element of our salvation (**II Timothy 3:15** and **Hebrews 9:28**).

II. Body: Is Water The Point Of Emphasis In The Bible (**II Kings 5:1-14**)?

A. Naaman had to learn that the key to his cleansing was not water, but obedience to God (**Deuteronomy 5:29**, **I Samuel 15:22-23**, and **Isaiah 50:10**).

1. For who is Jesus the source of salvation (**Hebrews 5:8-9**)?
2. Is immersion in water the whole duty of man (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**; cf. **Romans 6:17-18**)?

B. Isn't the power of salvation in obedience to all the will of God starting with the hearing and believing of the Gospel (**Romans 1:15-18**)?

1. Is it water that leads to obedience or faith that comes through learning (**Romans 10:9-17**)?
2. What do you have to not obey to cause God to take vengeance on you (**II Thessalonians 1:7-8-9**)?
 - a. Yes, the Gospel includes baptism (**Mark 16:15-16**).
 - b. However, the Gospel is about Christ first and water as a response, not the reverse (**Acts 8:12** and **Acts 18:8**).

C. Should we be emphasizing water or emphasizing salvation through our Lord (**John 14:6** and **Acts 4:10-12**)?

1. I am NOT saying not to teach baptism. Preaching Christ most CERTAINLY includes baptism (**Acts 8:26-39**).
2. What the word of God is saying, and I am preaching, is that the water is not the point of emphasis we should be making (**Acts 5:42**, **I Corinthians 1:10-18**, and **Colossians 1:23-28**).
3. What is the real power of our washing (**Hebrews 10:19-20**, **I Peter 1:18-19**, **I John 1:7**, and **Revelation 1:5**)?

III. Conclusion: Did God send water into the world for men to be saved (**John 3:17** and **I John 4:14**)?