

Things Hard To Understand (#2)

Is Baptism REALLY Essential For Salvation?

Text: Acts 2:37-47

Introduction:

1. As noted in our first lesson, Peter clearly states there are hard things to be understood. But does this mean they are impossible to know? No! (John 8:32; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11).
2. With that thought in mind we examined in our first lesson some "divisive" doctrines which are not at all difficult to understand about the church, how she is entered and how she worships.
3. Today we will look to an often misunderstood doctrine - the essentiality of baptism.

Discussion:

I. Passages To Consider About the Purpose Of Baptism

1. Mark 16:16
2. Acts 2:38
3. Acts 10:47-48
4. Acts 19:1-5
5. Acts 22:16
6. Romans 6:3
7. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13
8. Galatians 3:26-27
9. 1 Peter 3:21

II. Some Objections Examined

1. "Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:8-9 that salvation is not of works. Baptism is a work so it is excluded."
2. "Paul plainly says all we need to do is 'call on the name of the Lord' in Romans 10:13."
3. "The thief on the cross was saved without baptism (Luke 23:42-43)."

Conclusion:

1. Next week ... but what about John 3:16?!
2. Acts 22:16