

Baptism for the Dead

1 Corinthians 15:29

Introduction: This is considered to one of the toughest passages in all of Scripture to interpret in a way that does not contradict other passages of Scripture.

I. A False Interpretation: Baptizing For People Already Dead

John Calvin: baptizing someone with terminal illness

5th century some believed this, Joseph Smith "What about those before his time?"

Over 30 interpretations of this verse

1991 A religious group was sued for baptizing all Jews in Holocaust by proxy

A. Reasons Against This Doctrine

Parable of the Ten Virgins, Matthew 25: cannot give you oil

Luke 16 rich Man and Lazarus: cannot pass between, choice made none can cross over v. 26, Hebrews 9:27

Great Commission: MT. 28 Make disciples and Baptize, Mk 16 believe and baptize

2 Corinthians 5:10 Receive at the judgment according to what he has done, Heb. 9:27

Ezekiel 18:20.

II. Context of 1 Corinthians 15: The Resurrection

The gospel is based on the resurrection, v. 1-4

There are eyewitnesses to the resurrection, v. 5-11

If there is no resurrection there is no hope, v. 12-19

Christ is the first fruits of resurrection, v20-28

The resurrection changes our conduct, v. 29-34

The resurrection will give us spiritual bodies, v. 35-49

The resurrection is our ultimate victory, v. 50-58

III. What Passage Means

A. Many baptized to see who've gone before (full bible context)

1 Cor. 15:18 If no resurrection, Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished

2 Sam 12:23 David: I shall go to him, he shall not come back to me.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that

Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus

B. Baptism Frees Us From Death (paragraph context)

Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die! Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. *1 Corinthians 15:29-34*

Our sins are covered in Christ

Gal. 3:27 Clothed, Acts 2:38 Remission, Acts 22:16 Washed

C. Baptism because we will die (Preposition context)

Acts 2:39 Save yourself from this corrupt generation

Ez. 18:20 Soul who sins will die

Huper vs. Eis (for)

1 Cor. 15:29 Otherwise what will they do who are baptized for (huper) the dead?

Eis: Matthew 26:28 shed for remission of sin, Acts 2:38

Huper: (because of) on behalf of

Jn 10:11 The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep

Rom 5:6 While we were helpless, Christ for the ungodly 2

Cor 5:21 For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us.

D. Why You Should Be Baptized (Current context)

Romans 6:3-4 To participate in Christ's death and resurrection

What About the Resurrection?

A. Sometimes doubted by Moderns

Problem of 1 Corinthians 15

B. Known Facts

Jesus Was Tortured And Crucified

- The Tomb Was Found Empty
- Christianity Spread Throughout The Empire
- Many Eyewitnesses (More Than 500) Saw Jesus Resurrected
- All The Apostles Suffered For Their Faith (11 Of 12 Died For It)
- Previously Scared Disciples Were Boldy Preaching Christ Days After The Events
- The World Was Changed Dramatically By The Gospel

C. Theories

1. Swoon: Just passed out

Romans knew what they were doing

Joseph of Aramathea knew

2. Hallucination: They just thought they saw resurrected Jesus

Apostles Knew what they were doing

Jewish leaders knew

3. Spiritual Résurrection: Just a ghost

Jewish leaders knew

Apostles knew

Jospeh of Aramathea knew

4. Theft: Someone stole the body

Jews Knew

Roans knew

5. Wrong Tomb: Forgot where they put him

Joseph knew

D. If Jesus raised then: Gospels are accurate

Jesus is who he said he was

Jesus is son of God

Scripture is true

Prepare for Judgment