

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

INFANT BAPTISM

By Jeff Sweeten

The idea of “infant baptism” is an old one but is found nowhere in the Bible. It may be a hangover from the Old Testament law in which all male children were circumcised on the eighth day (Leviticus 12:3). However, the Old Covenant was nailed to the Cross of Christ (Colossians 2:14; cf. Hebrews 8). The misunderstanding that anyone claiming to follow Christ today is bound by Old Testament law has missed the purpose and product of Christ’s death on the cross. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Mosaic Covenant, which Jesus stated clearly would not end until it was fulfilled. *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”* (Matthew 5:17-18). *“Now when they had fulfilled **all that was written concerning Him**, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb”* (Acts 13:29). So, the Old Law ended with Jesus’ crucifixion.

Therefore, under the New Covenant, one who wishes to be saved must have faith (Hebrews 11:6), which is based upon a person’s understanding what he/she is doing in order to be saved (cf. Acts 8:31, 34-35); an infant cannot have faith, which is the product of hearing the Word of God and understanding it (Romans 10:17) and cannot, of its own volition, act upon that faith (James 2:17-24); babies can’t choose.

Since one must hear (“hear” in this verse means “to understand,” Romans 10:17; cf. Matthew 13:14-15) in order to have faith, and one cannot be saved from their sins without faith (John 8:24; cf. Hebrews 11:6), and baptism must be preceded by faith (Mark 16:16), then the “baptism” of an infant is nothing more than getting the child wet; it has no saving power. And, frankly, those poor little children whose world is disrupted with a splatter of cold water in their face don’t like it either. Therefore, the only subject of a valid baptism will be an individual who can understand what Christ did for humanity and how baptism forgives our sins through His blood (Romans 5:9).

Only after one is baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27) can one “*rise up to walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:3-4).

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

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