

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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DOES MY BABY NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

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One of the problems you run into when you are striving to follow ONLY New Testament teaching, is trying to reason with those who have been indoctrinated with the creeds of men. For example, the Catholic Church has taught for centuries the necessity of infants being baptized.

According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, the teaching goes back to the middle thirteenth century. *“Moreover, that those who die in original sin, without ever having contracted any actual sin, are deprived of the happiness of heaven is stated explicitly in the Confession of Faith of the Eastern Emperor Michael Palaeologus, which had been proposed to him by Pope Clement IV in 1267, and which he accepted in the presence of Gregory X at the Second Council of Lyons of 1274” (Vol. II, p. 266).* The teaching of the Catholic Church is clear: *“The Catholic teaching is uncompromising on this point, that all who depart this life without baptism...are perpetually excluded from the visions of God” (Vol II, p. 266).*

To our friends who have

been brought up to believe that your infants need to be baptized or they will forfeit the blessings of seeing God in heaven, please consider what the New Testament teaches regarding baptism.

Baptism is for the remission of “our” sins, not the “original” sin of Adam. First, the concept that our babies are born with the depraved nature from Adam’s sin is contrary to the plain teaching in the Bible. *“The soul that sinneth it shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Ezekiel 18:20).* True, sin entered into the world through Adam, but *“death passed unto all men, for that all sinned” (Romans 5:12),* not because they have original sin. Second, Saul was commanded to, *“arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on on His name” (Acts 22:16),* not wash away “original sin”.

The subjects of baptism in the New Testament were “men and women” who first “believed”

the preaching of the gospel (Acts 8:12). The scriptures do not say, men, women and infants were baptized. Besides having the ability hear, comprehend and then believe the message of the gospel preached, candidates for baptism were people who could “repent” and “confess Jesus as Lord” before being baptized (Acts 2:38, Acts 8:37).

No person is born into this world with “original sin. Since infants have not any sin of their own, what sins do they need to have forgiven in baptism? Infants are incapable of complying with the necessary conditions of the New Testament that one must do before they are baptized. Therefore baptism is not for them.

If your infant is not baptized, Catholic theologians try to lessen your fears by saying infants who are not baptized will miss out on seeing God, but will not experience pain from their senses. However, If they have a sense of pain, it will be of “the mildest form”. Of course, this theory, like the doctrine of infant baptism, is never taught in the Bible.