

REBAPTISM

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There are persons who have been treading the dark road of sectarianism and have always opposed the teaching of God's word. Like Paul, they think that they ought to do many things contrary to the way of righteousness. They have been zealous toward God, but "not according to knowledge." Now, when such persons are converted and make the good confession of the faith in Christ (though they have been baptized), some of the brethren ask: "Why are they not baptized again, as those men who were improperly taught and baptized by Apollos?"

The above question has been troubling many of the brethren for many years past, and doubtless will for many years to come; for our surroundings are such that it will be continually coming up with its round of perplexity. We know of but one scriptural way to decide the question, and that is for those who have been immersed to decide in their own minds whether they were immersed to obey the command of God or not. If they were baptized with the one pure design to obey God, no one can do more or better; but if they were immersed with an idea that it was merely an outside matter, merely to get into a party or denomination and no recognition of the authority of God in what they did, we think then their baptism amounts to no service to God at all; and when more perfectly instructed in the way of the Lord, such, like the twelve at Ephesus, ought to be baptized understandingly. We know of no other way to settle this question. It is not what we do in and of itself that saves us, but God promises that when we obey him he will save us; and our whole effort should be to obey him, and he will do the saving.

(QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY LIPSCOMB AND SEWELL, pp.527 & 528)