

The Design, Mode, and Subject Of Baptism

Here are the quotes used in a lesson given at the North Second Street Church of Christ on August, 25, 2024. I quoted Alexander Campbell from a book he wrote in 1839 entitled *The Christian System*.

Neither Campbell, his book, nor any teaching of he or his father has any authority in the church. Only the Bible is the word of God. These materials are provided for reference.

The Design Of Christian Baptism

Baptism is, then, designed to introduce the subjects of it into the participation of the blessings of the death and resurrection of Christ; who "died for our sins," and "rose again for our justification." But it has no abstract efficacy. Without previous faith in the blood of Christ, and deep and unfeigned repentance before God, neither immersion in water, nor any other action, can secure to us the blessings of peace and pardon. It can merit nothing. Still to the believing penitent it is the means of receiving a formal, distinct, and specific absolution, or release from guilt."-Alexander Campbell (*The Christian System*) p42

The Mode Of Christian Baptism

"The ancient lexicons with one consent give *immersion* as the natural, common, and primary sense of this word. There is not known to us a single exception. Nor is there a received lexicon, ancient or modern, that does ever translate this word by the terms sprinkling, or pouring. And as there are but three actions allowed to be Christian baptism; and as the original words, both verbs and nouns, are translated immerse and immersion, in all lexicons, and never sprinkle or pour; follows it not, then, that neither sprinkling nor pouring is Christian baptism?"-Alexander Campbell (*The Christian System*) p40

The Subject Of Christian Baptism

Penitent believers--not infants nor adults, not males nor females, not Jews nor Greeks; but professors of repentance towards God, and faith in Christ--are the proper subjects of this ordinance. "To as many as received him, to them he granted privilege of becoming the sons of God, to them that believed on his name, which were born not of flesh, nor of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God."-Alexander Campbell (*The Christian System*) p41

Campbell, Alexander. "The Christian System." Pittsburg, Forrester & Campbell, 1839.

Also for refence. Here is a quote on the age of a young Jew becoming an adult.

"Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies mark the transition into adulthood for your Jews (boys 13 and girls 12-13). The word literally means son (bar) of daughter (bat) the commandment. Each young person is then responsible for living according to Jewish Law."-bbc.co.uk

Practices in Judaism Bar and Bat Mitzvah <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zv626yc/revision/7>