

# Salvation and Baptism

## **“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

This article deals with baptism, the last step to be saved. We will look at the meaning of and the description of baptism – Jesus Christ and baptism – Christ’s command to preach – review of steps before baptism – baptism: what it’s for – baptism makes a change – other facts – it’s importance – its symbolism – man has tried to change it – bleak picture without it – and glorious picture with it.

## **The Meaning of the word, baptism:**

From the original Greek language it means “to immerse” – “to dip”. Notice the description of baptism: the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:35-39. The eunuch confessed his faith in Christ and Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized (immersed) him. Baptism in the New Testament is described in terms of a burial. See Romans 6:3-5 and Colossians 2:11-13.

## **Jesus Christ and Baptism:**

Jesus submitted to baptism (to fulfill all righteousness). John baptized Jesus in the Jordan river. (Matt.3:13-17) One of the last recorded commands of Jesus before he ascended back to heaven was regarding baptism. He said, “Therefore (because He had been given all power in heaven and earth Matthew 28:18) go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”(Matt.28:19)

## **Steps before baptism:**

Remember, baptism must be preceded by: teaching (Matt. 28:19) – preceded by faith (Mark 16:16) – preceded by repentance (Acts 2:38) and confession must come before baptism.( Acts

8:37) See previous articles.

## **What is baptism for?**

It is for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38) They asked on the day of Pentecost "What must I do to be saved?" and Peter told them what they must do. "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

For remission of sins appears in the New Testament in Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 5:31; Acts 10:43; and Romans 3:25.

## **Baptism is:**

An appeal to God for a clear conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ( I Peter 3:21)

It purifies the soul by obedience to the truth. ( I Peter 1:22)

The heart is sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and the body is washed in pure water. (Hebrews 10:22)

Baptism corresponds to Noah and the eight souls saved on the ark from the flood. The water of baptism saves us today. ( I Peter 3:20,21)

## **Baptism marks a change:**

A change of a person's status from 'sinner' to 'Christian'. We take the name of Jesus Christ. We go from lost to saved.

In Christ we're a new creature (II Cor. 5:17) "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."

A change of focus A change of love for the things of the world- to love God above all things. (Matt.22:37,38)

A change of our outlook on life. Place your affections on things above. "Set you affections on things above, not on things on the earth"(Colossians 3:2)

## **Other facts about baptism:**

Baptism marks one's entrance in to Christ. Galatians 3:26,27 "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

There are only two relationships, a person is either of the world (John 15:19) or in Christ.

Out of Christ one is without hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)

Redemption is in Christ. (Romans 3:24)

There is no condemnation to those in Christ. (Romans 8:1)

## **The symbolism of baptism:**

In Romans 6:3-5 Paul writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit compares baptism to the death and resurrection of Christ. Notice the passage, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." – We are baptized into his death and raised to walk in newness of life.

## **Man has tried to change baptism.**

Man has tried to make changes to the meaning and practice of baptism by pouring or sprinkling a little water on a

person. New Testament baptism requires immersion in water.

## **There is a bleak picture for those without Christ.**

Ephesians 2:12 "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

## **There is a glorious picture of those baptized into Christ.**

Read these passages.

- Eternal life is in Christ (I John 5:11)
- Grace is in Christ. (2 Timothy 2:1)
- Salvation and eternal glory are in Christ. (2 Timothy 2:10)
- Redemption and forgiveness of sins are in Christ. (Colossians 1:14)
- All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

To put it simply we become saved children of God in Christ. In baptism, our status changes from excluded – to chosen, from lost to saved. A simple ceremony, but a big change.

**Could we assist you in baptism? Please contact us and we will be happy to make arrangement for your baptism.**

## **For additional study:**

Please view out streaming videos: "Searching for Truth"...."About Authority in Religion"...."What Must I Do To Be Saved?"....and "Why Are There So Many Churches?" Personal Bible studies are available by way of Skype. Please see the Skype page. If you have any question or if I can help in any way send me an e-mail.

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