

Bible baptism

SALVATION INCLUDES AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

- 1Peter 1:22-23

“Since you have purified your souls in *obeying the truth* through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been *born again*, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”

- Romans 6:17

“ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you *obeyed* from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

SALVATION INCLUDES AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE, pg 2

- Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who *does the will of My Father* in heaven.”

- (Some say baptism cannot have a part in salvation because that would be salvation by works. These last three passages show that obedience is part of being saved. Baptism is simply an act of obedience during which we receive the gift of salvation and should not be classified as a “work” done in attempt to earn salvation.)

BAPTISM BEGINS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

- Galatians 3:26-28

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ have put on Christ*. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

- Romans 6:1-7

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

BAPTISM BEGINS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, pg 2

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized *into Christ Jesus* were baptized *into His death*? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been *united together in the likeness of His death*, certainly we also *shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...*”

BAPTISM BEGINS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, pg 3

- (In Galatians 3:26-28 and Romans 6:3-7 we learn that we are (1) placed “into” Jesus (2) make contact with His death (3) put Him on. These statements tell us that during baptism we not only become Christ’s disciples, but are cleansed and made righteous before God.)
- (In addition, Romans 6:3-7 explains verse two. Paul says we cannot return to sin because our salvation meant getting rid of our sin. In these verses, he reminds us that baptism was the process we went through to get rid of that sin.)

SINS ARE FORGIVEN DURING BAPTISM

- Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the *remission of sins*; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- Acts 22:16

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

SINS ARE FORGIVEN DURING BAPTISM, pg 2

- Colossians 2:11-12

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by *putting off the body of the sins of the flesh*, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” (See also verse 13)

- (These verses clearly show that it is during baptism that we have sins cut away, and undergo a spiritual resurrection. We were dead in sin, but after baptism we are alive. This is salvation, and it comes to us during baptism.)

CHRIST'S BLOOD IS APPLIED DURING BAPTISM

- Hebrews 10:19-21

“ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the *blood* of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our *hearts sprinkled* from an evil conscience and our *bodies washed with pure water.*”

- (See also Romans 6:3-4 “into His death”)

CHRIST'S BLOOD IS APPLIED DURING BAPTISM, pg 2

- (Hebrews 10:19-22 uses the Day of Atonement, Leviticus 16, as an explanation of baptism in the New Testament. As the high priest under the Law of Moses entered the Holy of Holies on that day with the blood of animals, we enter into God's presence today with the blood of Christ. Verse 22 reveals that the blood of Jesus is applied to us, or sprinkled on our hearts, when our bodies are washed in water [baptism]. Our conscience [awareness of sin] is at that same time cleansed. This is an obvious reference to the fact that it is during baptism that our sins are removed.)

SALVATION IS GIVEN DURING BAPTISM

- 1Peter 3:21

“There is also an antitype which now *saves* us--- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

- Titus 3:5

“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He *saved* us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

SALVATION IS GIVEN DURING BAPTISM pg 2

- (In 1Peter 3:21 we learn that water baptism is not for the removal of physical dirt from the body, but is our request to God [and His answer] for a clean conscience. Only removal of sin [salvation] can clean our conscience.)
- (In Titus 3:5 Paul speaks of salvation, a washing of regeneration, and reception of the Holy Spirit. Compare this verse with Ephesians 5:26, which tells us that Jesus cleansed us with a washing of water. Hebrews 10:22, 1Peter 3:21, Titus 3:5 and Ephesians 5:26 combine to explain that our sins are washed away during baptism. We are washed in Christ's blood when we are washed in the waters of baptism.)

SALVATION IS GIVEN DURING BAPTISM, pg 3

- 1Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body----whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free----and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

- (Note we are baptized “by,” not “in,” the Spirit, meaning that the Spirit is the cause, not the element in which we are baptized.)

- (In Acts 2:47 the process of addition to the kingdom or body is one of salvation. Therefore, if we are baptized into the body (1Cor. 12:13), baptism is when we are saved.)

FAITH MAKES BAPTISM WORK

- Colossians 2:11-12

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

FAITH MAKES BAPTISM WORK, PG 2

- (Many passages say that we are saved by faith. For instance, Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Some people argue that if salvation is by faith, then it cannot be that baptism is necessary for salvation because baptism is a work. The Bible nowhere calls baptism a work. Since it is faith that works in baptism, the puzzle is solved. Baptism is not a work in the sense that Paul used the term, but an act of obedience during which God has chosen to grant the gift of salvation because of our faith.)

FAITH MAKES BAPTISM WORK, PG 3

- (The view that our sins are forgiven during baptism because of our faith harmonizes all Biblical statements about faith and baptism. We can no more be saved without baptism than we can be saved without faith or repentance, Acts 2:37-38.)

BAPTISM IS IMMERSION

- John 3:23

“Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there.”

- (If baptism's form were sprinkling or pouring, there would have been no reason for John to need “much water.”)

- Acts 8:38

“And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

- (There would have been no need for both Philip and the eunuch to enter the water unless the process was immersion)

BAPTISM IS IMMERSION, pg 2

- (Burial is used as an analogy in explaining baptism (Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12). Only immersion fits the analogy of a burial.)
- (According to reputable Greek lexicons, the meaning of the Greek word translated "baptism" is immersion. The Greek words for sprinkling and pouring are different words.)
- (The word "baptize" is used for descriptions of overwhelming (immersion) in the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:5, and suffering, Matthew 20:22.)

WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED?

- Acts 2:37-38

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED? Pg 2

- (Since we have established that baptism is an act of faith, it should be obvious that the proper candidate for baptism is one who is capable of believing. This fact rules out baptism of infants and baptism by proxy for those who have already died. According to Acts 2:37-38, one must also be a repentant believer. The proper candidate for baptism is one who believes in Jesus and is repentant.)

SUMMARY

- Mark 16:16

“ He who *believes AND is baptized* will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

- (In this verse the “ and ” is a coordinating conjunction. This part of speech links two objects that are equal in importance, so both “ believes ” and “ is baptized ” are equally associated with “saved.”)

SUMMARY, pg 2

(In this study we have shown that baptism, immersion in water, is the action, time and place during which we come in contact with Jesus, His death, His blood, forgiveness of sins, a clean conscience, and salvation. It is our faith that provides salvation, but it is during the act of baptism. Given these facts, it is clear that faith, repentance, and baptism are all necessary parts of the process of receiving the gift of salvation in Jesus. This is why the scriptures speak of obeying the gospel as well as believing the gospel.)

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