

HOW DOES BAPTISM SAVE?

TEXT: I Peter 3:18-22

INTRO:

A. The major doctrine that separates true Baptist from all other denominations is the doctrine of Salvation.

1. We believe that salvation (the giving of spiritual life) from beginning to end is ONLY of, in, by, and through the Lord (Jonah 2:9; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 9:13-16).
2. Therefore, we believe nothing, nor any one can save us, help save us or help keep us saved.
 - a. No works of obedience ever saved one soul (ie. Gave them eternal life).

B. But our text says, "Baptism doth also now save us".

1. Baptism is important.
 - a. Every saved person is commanded to be baptized (Acts. 10:48).
 - b. The importance of the true nature of baptism.
 - c. Proper MODE - CANDIDATE - PURPOSE - ADMINISTRATOR.
2. If salvation is by sovereign, free, unmerited grace, how does baptism save?
 - a. There are at least 4 ways in which baptism saves.

I. BAPTISM SAVES IN FIGURE.

A. . "The like figure" - the figure or picture of the ark and the flood.

1. Noah was saved **from** the water **in** the ark (Heb.11:7).
2. The water was not the liquid that saved but the liquid that destroyed.
3. The ark was a type of Christ:
 - a. The ARK in type SAVED Noah!(Gen.7:7; 23), but he was already saved (Gen.6:8; 7:1)
 - b. The only sense in which Noah and his family were saved by the flood water is that it "bare up the ark" (Gen.7:17).

B. This is the WAY water (BAPTISM) saves today!

1. You are already in Christ when you are baptized.
2. Baptism lifts up ("bares up") (preaches) the death and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-6).
 - a. Baptism preaches (bares up) your identity with Christ.
 - b. Baptism preaches (bares up) that your only hope is in Christ.
 - c. Baptism preaches (bares up) the power of the resurrection of Christ.
 - d. Baptism preaches (bares up) death to self and new life in God.

C. Christ's baptism is an example of this saving figure (Matt.3:15).

1. "Thus" "in this manner, like this" all righteousness is fulfilled.
2. Christ's baptism typed Christ's actual death, burial, and resurrection!
 - a. IT DID NOT PROVIDE SALVATION FOR US.
3. "US" - "Me and those who follow"
 - a. Our Baptism points to the work of Christ, His work for and in us, and our future resurrection in Him.

D. Have you "lifted up" Christ by being baptized?

II. BAPTISM SAVES OUR TESTIMONY.

A. It "answers a good CONSCIENCE" or "investigation".

1. The Greek word "conscience" has the idea of, "distinguishing between what is morally good and bad ...commending one, condemning the other"
 - a. When a person professes faith in Christ, their Profession is to be examined.
2. When the LORD saves a person he should desire to be baptized.
 - a. To say you are saved and not desire to be baptized is to lose your testimony (Acts.8:34-38).

B. Are you saved? What hinders you from being baptized?

1. You say you will be resurrected one day - say it as loud as your Saviour - be baptized!
2. Don't let your testimony waver - BE BAPTISED!

III. BAPTISM SAVES OUR CONSCIENCE.

A. "a good conscience toward God"

1. God commands every believer to be baptized (Acts 2:38).
2. By not following your saviour you are condemned in conscience.

B. Baptism justifies God (Lk.7:29-30).

1. Baptism tells others that God has dealt with you fairly in your salvation.
2. Baptism declares the only way of righteousness.
 - a. That is, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Matt. 21:31-32).

C. Have you been obedient to your saviour?

1. Your conscience should bother you.

IV. BAPTISM SAVES OUR LIFE OF SERVICE.

A. Baptism puts the believer into the body of Christ (I Cor.12:13).

1. A local assembly of baptized believers is the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27).

B. God get glory in his body - THE CHURCH (Eph. 3:21).

1. Every saved person should seek to do the will of the Lord.
2. You cannot live a life of COMPLETE obedience outside of the Lord's church.

C. Acceptable service is given to the Lord in the Church that he started (II Tim.2:5, 11-13).

1. Service start with a lawful entry into God's work - Baptism is the lawful entry.
2. Rewards will be lost if lawful service is not given - the Lord will not deny himself (His glory).

CON:

A. This is how baptism saves!

1. Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh (God does that by sovereign and saving grace).

B. Are you saved?

1. Has God worked repentance and faith in your life? Have you seen Christ as the saviour He is?

C. What hinders you to be baptized?

1. Don't let anything stand in your way.
2. Be obedient to your saviour - Be baptized!

D. Be faithful after baptism - Live a baptized Life!