

What Happens At Baptism - 1 ?

Text : **Romans 6: 1-11**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Today there are religious groups who make light of baptism.

1. Some say it has nothing to do with salvation.
2. Others go so far as to call it an “ancient religious superstition.”

B. Others accept baptism, but trivialize its importance.

1. *“It’s a command, but it has nothing to do with salvation.”*
2. *“Baptism is just to ‘join’ a church.”*
3. *“Baptism is just symbolic; why get wet; just sprinkle a little water on your head.”*

Note :

- a. The word “**baptize**” isn’t translated, but rather is a transliteration of a Greek word.
- b. **Def:** Greek word “*baptizo*” to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (*sunken ship*)
- c. To immerse by sprinkling is an oxymoron. (*King James refused translation.*)

C. Believers in Jesus the Christ have debated about baptism for hundreds of years.

1. Hundreds of books have been written about it. (*I have one that’s 2 ½ in. thick.*)
2. Water baptism has been practiced from the first day until the present.
 - a. Before Christianity, the Jews baptized converts (proselytes).
 - b. John the baptizer baptized folks before Jesus started His ministry. (**John 1: 25-33**)
3. Christianity has divided many times, but all factions baptized.
 - a. Some tried to change the meaning and the “form” of baptism.
 - b. However, all baptized for some reason and in some way.

D. The act of baptism in and of itself will not save anyone.

1. Baptism is not an act of merit –or– a work to earn salvation. (*God owes nothing.*)
2. Baptism is a physical act of commitment which must be motivated by faith.
3. Baptism is the response to faith that is commanded by the scriptures. (**13 times**)
 - a. Jesus commanded that believers be baptized. **Mrk 16: 15-16** –cf– **Matt. 28: 18-20**
 - b. It’s also commanded by God’s men : Peter, Steven, Ananias, Paul, Apollos
 - c. **Obviously God thought baptism to be important !!** (**Acts 18:24-19:5** *do it over*)

E. Baptism is one of the things one must do to be saved, but not the ONLY thing.

1. Principle of Bible study : “One only has the will of God on any given subject when he has heard everything God has to say on that subject.”
2. When studying the N.T. there is never a time when one command negates another.
3. The scriptures are not a buffet where one chooses what he likes.
 - a. We must obey everything said about any subject, e.g., salvation.
 - b. If one passage says believe and be baptized, but another says repent and be baptized, we realize that one must do all three believe, repent and be baptized.

By this lesson we will add nothing new to the debate, but I seek to remind (II Pet. 3: 1-2) us of some of the things that happen when we are baptized.

I. Baptism is the act of “calling on the name of the Lord.”**A. Two things are inferred by one’s “calling on the name of the Lord.”**

1. **1st** – One calls on the name of the Lord when he realizes that he needs to be saved.
 - a. Jonah cried out for help from the belly of the fish.
Jonah 2: 1-2 ... “**I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me.**”
 - b. The crowd in Jerusalem on Pentecost after being convicted of crucifying God.
Acts 2: 37 – **Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”**
2. **2nd** – Inherent in the calling is the faith that the one being called can help.
 - a. When in deep need, no one calls on someone he thinks can’t or won’t help.
 - b. Salvation is by grace through faith ... *One must have the faith to trust Jesus to save.*

B. One calls on the name of the Lord when he is baptized.

1. The bible assures us that when we know we need a savior, we can be saved by calling on the name (*authority*) of the Lord.
Rom. 10: 13 – **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**
 - a. This is a quotation from the prophecy of Joel. **Joel 2: 32**
 - b. It is not in reference to a verbal cry for help, but reliance upon God for salvation.
2. The bible gives us the procedure for “calling on the name of the Lord.”
3. Remember the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul.
 - a. Acts chapters **9 & 22**

- b. Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus.
 - c. Jesus spoke directly to Saul.
 - d. Saul was blinded by seeing Jesus in the way.
 - e. He was told to go into the city and await instructions. (*Not told he was saved.*)
 - f. Saul waited there and prayed for three days.
 - g. When the preacher (*Ananias*) came, He miraculously healed Saul's eyes.
 - h. Afterwards, Ananias taught Saul what Jesus wanted him to do.
* *After all this, Saul still had his sins ... he was not saved.*
 - i. Ananias told Saul : *Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'* Acts 22: 16
- THUS :** 1)- *One calls on the name of the Lord when he is baptized.*
2)- *At baptized one's sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus.*

II. Baptism places one "in" Christ.

A. No one will ever be saved outside of Jesus the Christ.

- 1. **John 14: 6** – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*
- 2. The Apostles boldly taught that no one outside Jesus could be saved.
Acts 4: 12 – *And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*
- 3. The Apostle Paul taught Timothy that salvation was in Christ Jesus.
II Tim. 2: 10 – *For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

***THEREFORE :** *In order to be saved one must be "in Christ Jesus."*

B. It is baptism which places one into the place where salvation is found. (in Christ)

- 1. Salvation is by grace through faith.
Eph. 2: 8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- 2. Grace is only found in Christ Jesus.
 - a. **I Cor. 1: 4** – *I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,*
 - b. **II Tim. 2: 1** – *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*
 - c. **THEREFORE.** *one must get into Christ to get in grace which saves one in Heaven*

3. The only way to get into Christ is to be “baptized into Christ.”
 - a. **Rom. 6: 3** – Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
 - b. **Gal. 3: 26-27** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ

C. Baptism only puts one into Christ if he is doing it as a faith response to Christ.

1. We are all “dipped” (*baptized*) many times in our lives,
 every dipping (*baptizo*) does not have religious significance. (*Bathing, swimming*)
2. We cannot be baptized by force or coercion.
 - a. To grab people off the street and baptize them does not save them.
 - b. Babies cannot be baptized. (*It is against their will and they have no faith.*)
3. Jesus said : He who has believed and (*not “or”*) has been baptized shall be saved;
 but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. **Mark 16: 16**
4. When the Ethiopian treasurer requested to be baptized, Philip the evangelist replied:
Acts 8: 37 – And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
5. **Salvation is by grace through faith ... if there is no faith there can be no grace.**

THUS :

- a. Salvation is by grace alone.
- b. Grace comes through the conduit of faith.
- c. Faith must motivate the action of baptism where blood removes sins.
- d. When one is baptized as a faith response to Christ, he is put into grace / Christ.

III. When one is baptized into Christ, he forms a new relationship with God.

A. Sin breaks the relationship between God and man. (*God stills loves, but ...*)

1. Everyone sins and in so doing deserves separation from God. **Rom 3:23 –cf– 6:23**
2. **Isa. 59: 1-2** Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.
² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
 And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.
3. Those who are separated from God by sin are objects of His wrath. (*just punishment*)
Rom 2: 5, 8 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ... ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and
 (cf – **2 Thes 1:6-10**) do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

B. Those who are “in Christ” are reconciled to God.

1. **II Cor. 5: 18-21** Now all *these things* are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, *19* namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. *20* Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. *21* He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. Sin breaks the relationship so when sin is removed, there is no more division.

C. The faith response restores one’s father-son relationship with God.

1. The story of the prodigal son is the story of us all. (**Luke 15: 11-24**)
 - a. He did not want to live his life under his father’s authority.
 - b. He wanted to live his life his own way and be happy.
 - c. Like the prodigal’s father, God is anxious for our return.
2. When one comes up out of the waters of baptism, he is resurrected, born again.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 4** – Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
 - b. **I Pet. 1: 22-23** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, *23* for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.
3. Both faith and baptism are part of the process of being born into the family of God.
 - a. **John 3: 5** – Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
 - b. **Rom. 8: 16-17** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, *17* and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.
 - c. Remember that being a child of God requires both faith and baptism.
Gal. 3: 26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ

CONCLUSION :**A. Let's review what we have learned from the scriptures :**

1. Baptism has been the sinner's response to the gospel from the first until now.
2. Baptism is but a part of the process of accepting Christ.
 - a. It must be accompanied by repentance. (**Jesus – Mk 16: 16, Peter – Ax 2:38**)
 - b. If it's not a faith response, it's of no value. *Salvation is by grace through faith.*
3. Baptism places one into Christ where grace is received.
4. One who's lost must call on Jesus to save him and baptism is the process of that call.
5. Baptism places one into Christ where he has a close family relationship with God.
6. It is in baptism that one's sins are washed away by the blood of Christ.
7. If one will be born again in the likeness of Christ he must be baptized.

B. Thus, baptism is of great importance, but it's of no value apart from the faith.

1. Salvation is the gift of God, a demonstration of His grace.
 - a. No one deserves of it.
 - b. No one can earn it.
2. God gives His gift ONLY to those who have faith in Him and in His Son, Jesus.
3. Faith is only evidenced in the response one makes to the gospel message.

One must :

- a. Believe it and trust in Jesus to save him.
- b. Publicly acknowledge his faith before others.
- c. Reject sin in all forms and surrender is life to serve God.
- d. He must solemnize his covenant with God by be immersed in water.
4. Faith will produce a changed lifestyle after baptism.

Rom. 6: 4 – Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (cf. – **II Cor. 5: 14-17)**

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**Romans 6: 1-11**

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. **10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.