

Does Baptism Save?

1 Peter 3:14-22

East Berlin Community Church

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August 13, 2023

Introduction

- Most important question: *“What must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30)
- Simple answer: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!”* (Acts 16:31)
- Partaking of the elements of communion do not administer grace to us. They do not save.

Does Baptism Save?

A. Baptism and Salvation from Sin?

1. Infant baptism and salvation?

a. Various Views

- 1) **Sacramental View**—saves the child from sin
- 2) **Covenantal View**—introduces the child into believing community.
 - a) Based on replacement theology
 - b) Equates circumcision with baptism

b. Infant Baptism explored

- 1) **Circumcision in OT clearly taught; but no Scriptural support for infant baptism in the New Testament.**
 - Genesis 17:10-12a -- *“This is the covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you, and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in your flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised.”*
- 2) **Covenant theologians believe that as circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant, so infant baptism is the sign of the New.**
 - Colossians 2:11-12 -- *“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of 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.”*

c. New Testament teaching regarding adult baptism

1) Commanded in New Testament

- Matthew 28:19-20a -- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”*
- Matthew 11:28-30 -- *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*
- Matthew 16:24 -- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me!”*

2) Pattern in the New Testament

- Acts 2:41 -- *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”*
- Acts 16:32-34 -- *“Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them that same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all*

his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into the house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household."

- d. **Infant baptism is not biblically based, but a theological construct based on the belief that the church replaces Israel.**

2. **Adult Baptism and Salvation?**

- a. Close connection between salvation and baptism in New Testament
- b. **Is Baptism necessary for salvation?**
- Mark 16:15-16-- *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
- c. **Baptism not part of the gospel.**
- Romans 1:16-- *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18 -- *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."*
 - 1 Corinthians 1:17 -- *"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect."*

B. Baptism and Salvation from a Soiled Conscience!

- 1 Peter 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."*

1. **The Larger Context**

a. **Suffering for right and maintain a clear conscience**

- 1 Peter 3:14-- *"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed."*
- 1 Peter 3:15-16 -- *"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."*

b. **Jesus as our primary example**

- 1 Peter 3:19-20 -- *"by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."*

2. **Noah as example of a "clean conscience"**

- 1 Peter 3:18-22 -- *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."*

a. **Noah as prominent biblical figure in Asia Minor**

b. **Noah lived during a period of time in which the world was as corrupt and evil as it could be.**

- Genesis 6:5-- *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

- Genesis 6:11-12 -- *"The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth"*
- c. **Noah was different from the rest of society.**
- Genesis 6:9 -- *"Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."*
- 1) **Noah built the ark by faith.**
- Hebrews 11:7-- *"By faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*
- 2) **Noah preached and warned about the impending judgment**
- 2 Peter 2:5-- *"a preacher of righteousness!"*
 - 1 Peter 3:20-- *"who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."*
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- *"not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"*
- c. **Noah and family saved from the condemnation and judgment of God by being IN the Ark.**
3. **But Noah was also saved "THROUGH water"**
- a. An *"answer of a good conscience toward God"*-- the pledge
- b. **Baptism represents a complete break with one's past**
- Romans 6:1-4 -- *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue to sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who have died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in 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."*
- c. **Baptism declares our allegiance and our alliance.**
- d. **Baptism is like a wedding ceremony—a "pledge"**

C. Baptism and You?

1. *Have you decided to follow Jesus?*
2. *Have you been baptized since trusting in Christ for your salvation?*
 - Acts 18:8-- *"Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized."*
3. What if you were baptized as an infant. *Should you consider being baptized as a believing adult?*
 - Acts 19:4-5 -- *"'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."*