

“Will Only The Baptized Be Saved?”

By Jimmy Stevens

INTRODUCTION: Answering any Bible question requires a thorough search of the Scriptures to avoid missing important points of truth, especially when searching for answers about salvation. Baptism is perhaps one of the most discussed topics among those who believe that Jesus is the Savior. One can get confused by the different ideas about baptism. All these ideas cannot come from God since some disagree with others, and God would not contradict himself. Since God does not contradict himself, he has only one correct answer. It is found in the book he authored, 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 John 9, 1 Cor 4:6

I. The Problem of Sin, and God’s Promise to Save Sinners From Sin.

- A. Adam and Eve introduced sin into the world. They broke his commands, 1 John 3:4. Sin separates one from God. Isa 59:2, and Adam and Eve were separated from God and doomed to eternal condemnation.
- B. God immediately promised victory over sin and eternal death through the seed of woman who is Jesus, Gen 3:15. It was fulfilled when the virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus. Every human being since Adam and Eve has been offered the hope of forgiveness through this promise. Gal 4:3-5, Matt 1:18-22

II. Jesus Is the Answer to the Sinner’s Problem of Sin.

- A. When mankind sinned, God’s justice demanded eternal death as punishment. Heaven is not a place for sinners, and with sin they cannot go to heaven. However, God offered an escape from sin. Titus 2:11.
- B. “Grace” in this text means “unmerited favor” or a “gift” given to someone who does not deserve it. The gift of God’s grace, was in “giving” his only Son as a sacrifice to take away the sins of the world. John 3:16, 1 Tim 1:15, 1 Cor 15:3, 1 Pet 2:24

III. What is the Power in Jesus’ Death that Takes Sins Away From Sinners?

- A. The **blood** Jesus shed on the cross. Matt 26:28, Eph 1:7, Col 1:14, Rev 1:5
- B. Jesus proved power to take away sin in his resurrection, showing power over Satan, sin and death, as foretold in Gen 3:15, Acts 2:22-24

IV. What Do We Have So Far?

- A. Those who sin are separated from God.
- B. God wanted to save sinners.
- C. God sent his Son to shed his blood to take away their sins.
- D. Jesus proved the power of his blood over sin and death in his resurrection.
- E. Now, the most logical question, **“If forgiveness and remission of sin comes through the blood of Christ, how does the sinner today come in contact with that blood to have his sins forgiven?”** In some way sinners must join Jesus’ death to contact the cleansing power of his blood.

V. How Does One Join With Jesus’ Death, or “Die With Christ”?

- A. Must be **crucified** or **die** with Jesus, not literally, but a figuratively, to be saved. Gal 2:20, Col 2:20, 3:3
- B. Again, **How does one join with Jesus’ death, or “die with Christ”?**

VI. Paul explains it very clearly in Roman 6:3-11

- A. V 3, “*baptized into His death?*” Baptism connects one with Jesus’ death where his blood was shed. If one can be saved **without** or **before** baptism, he can be saved **without** or **before** contacting the blood of Christ.
- B. V 4, “*buried with Him through baptism...raised from the dead...newness of life.*” To join Jesus’ death naturally means joining his burial. One is “buried with him” in water “through baptism”. Acts 8:36. Some define baptism as “sprinkling” or “pouring”, but its real meaning is “dipping” or “immersing” to completely cover like a burial. We have read of the importance of Jesus’ resurrection to prove his power over sin and death. God raised him to “newness of life” without sin. A sinner is “buried with him through baptism”, so God can raise him “to walk in newness of life”, as well. “Did Jesus enjoy “newness of life” **before** or **after** his burial?” “Does the sinner enjoy “newness of life” **before** or **after** burial with Christ in baptism?”
- C. V 5, “*united...in the likeness of His death...shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.*” Death, burial and resurrection through baptism is a “likeness” of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. 1 Cor 15:1-4
- D. V 6, “*old man was crucified...body of sin might be done away...no longer be slaves of sin.*” When joining Christ’s death through baptism, the “old man” and “body of sin” is “crucified with Him (Jesus)” and “done away with”. “Is the sinner’s “old man” and “body of sin” “done away with” **before** baptism or **after** baptism?”
- E. V 7, “*For he who has died has been freed from sin.*” This sums up the “old man” being “done away with”. One is not freed from sin until **after** baptism.
- F. V 8, “*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*” Death through baptism (v 3). To “live with Him” describes “newness of life” (v 4). Gal 2:20, 1 Pet 2:24. One cannot “live” with Christ, free from sin, until **after** being baptized with him in his death and not **before** baptism.

- G. **V 9-10**, “*knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion 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.*” Jesus could not have had “*dominion*” or power over sin and death until **after** he had gone through his death, burial and resurrection from the dead. If he had not risen, his death would have been like any other’s.
- H. **V 11**, “*Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Referring to vs 9-10, just as Jesus proved his power over sin when he was raised from his death and burial, the sinner can also “*reckon*” himself to be “*dead indeed to sin*” and be made “*alive*” having been raised from baptism. “*dead indeed to sin, but alive to God*” comes **after** baptism and **not before**.

VII. What Is Romans 6:3-11 Teaching?

- A. **With baptism:** What happens to the sinner?
 - 1. Put into Christ
 - 2. Joins Christ’s death
 - 3. Contacts Christ’s blood shed in his death
 - 4. Joins Christ’s burial
 - 5. Joins Christ’s resurrection
 - 6. Gains newness of life
 - 7. Crucifies the old man and body of sin
 - 8. Freed from slavery to sin
 - 9. Made alive to God
- B. **Without or before baptism:** What does not happen to the sinner?
 - 1. Not in Christ
 - 2. Not join Christ’s death
 - 3. Not contact Christ’s blood
 - 4. Not join Christ’s burial
 - 5. Not join Christ’s resurrection
 - 6. Not have newness of life
 - 7. Not crucify the old man and body of sin
 - 8. Not freed from slavery to sin
 - 9. Not alive to God

VIII. The Rest of the New Testament Considers Baptism Necessary for Salvation.

- A. **Disciples were made by baptism**, Matt 28:19
- B. **One is saved after he believes and is baptized**, Mark 16:16. If one is not saved after baptism, then he is also not saved after believing. *Believe and baptized* are equally necessary for salvation.
- C. **Water baptism is required for remission of sins**. Mark 1:4, John 3:23
- D. **Remission of sins in baptism**, Luke 24:46-48, Acts 2:38. Remission of sins came **after** baptism. If believers were saved **before** baptism, they were also saved **before** *remission* of their sins.
- E. **Baptism washed away Paul’s sins**, Acts 22:16. **Before** his baptism, he believed, but still had sin. **After** his baptism his sins were washed away. Remember, he wrote Romans 6
- F. **Become sons of God through baptism**, Gal 3:26-27. Baptism is how to “*put on Christ*” and get “*in Christ*”. If one is a “*son of God*” **before** baptism, he is a son **before** he has “*put on Christ*” or is “*in Christ*.”
- G. **Sin is cut away in baptism**, Col 2:11-13. If one can be saved **before** or **without** baptism, he can be saved **before** or **without** sins being cut away or forgiven and without being *raised* to be *alive* with Christ.
- H. **Baptism saves**, 1 Pet 3:20-21. Noah was saved by water. If one can be saved **before** or **without** baptism he can be saved **before** or **without being saved**.

IX. What Sinners in the First Century Were Taught To Be Saved.

- A. **Believe** in Jesus, the Son of God, that he can take away sins. John 8:24, Acts 16:31
- B. **Repent** by turning from sin to follow Christ. Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38
- C. **Confess** faith that Jesus is the Son of God. Rom 10:9-10, 1 John 4:15. While all of these are necessary for salvation, one thing they cannot do is remove sin. But one is...
- D. **Baptized** to wash away his sins, Acts 22:16

CONCLUSION: The answer to “*Will only the baptized be saved?*” would have to be “**YES!**” With all these things depending on baptism for salvation, it is evident that one who is not baptized is not saved. Mark 16:16. Anyone can be dunked in water, but true baptism requires genuine faith in Jesus Christ and his gospel in order to be saved.