



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 15, 2021

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Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Baptism Saves Us?

Yes, that's exactly what we read in **1 Peter 3:21**.

But, doesn't the Bible teach that Jesus saves us? Of course! He is the only Savior (**Acts 4:12**). Without Him we cannot come to the Father (**John 14:6**). We could never pay for our sins, but His blood paid for our sins (**1 Peter 1:18-19**).

So, what does baptism have to do with it?

Peter compares baptism with the flood of Noah's day. Those in the ark were "*saved through water*" (**1 Peter 3:20**). The water cleansed the earth and brought them into a new world. Peter uses this example as a type of our salvation by baptism.

"There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism" (**1 Peter 3:21a**).

In the type, those in the ark floated above the water. In the antitype, we are immersed into the water.

In the type, there was a physical cleansing of the earth. In the antitype, there is a spiritual cleansing of the soul.

Peter explains that baptism is "*not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God*" (**1 Peter 3:21b**). Baptism is not a bath for washing dirt off our bodies but to wash away our sins.

Peter had earlier preached, "*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 2:38**).

Ananias told Saul, "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (**Acts 22:16**).

Paul described baptism as a circumcision administered by Christ "*putting off the body of the sins of the flesh*" (**Colossians 2:11**).

Finally, Peter adds "*through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (**1 Peter 3:21c**). Baptism saves us by the power of Christ's resurrection.

Our faith is not in the water but in the power of God, as Paul wrote, "*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. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses*" (**Colossians 2:12-13**; cf. also **Romans 6:3-11**).

Jesus Himself said, "*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*" (**Mark 16:15-16**).

By Robert Dodson

Are All Who Are Baptized Christians?

In every example of New Testament conversion people were baptized for remission of sins. *"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 2:38**) One cannot be a Christian without being baptized but not all who have been baptized are Christians. Why would this be true?

Many that have been baptized have not been baptized as accountable people. Baptism is an act of submission that must come from the heart. *"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."* (**Romans 6:17**) Baptizing babies is no more Bible baptism than it would be for several strong men to baptize adults against their will. Babies have no sin and therefore do not need baptism and certainly could not be baptized as a voluntary act of obedience.

Many that have been baptized have not been baptized like the Bible teaches. Bible baptism is a burial in water and it is for the remission of sins. Both the reason for which baptism is done and the way in which it is done are important. Bible baptism is a burial. *"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."* (**Romans 6:4**) Bible baptism is never sprinkling or pouring. Bible baptism is essential to our salvation. The Bible is plain in teaching that: (1) Baptism comes before salvation (**Mark 16:16**), (2) Baptism is for remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), (3) Baptism washes away sins (**Acts 22:16**), (4) Baptism comes before being a child of God (**Galatians 3:26-27**), and (5) Baptism puts one into Christ. (**Romans 6:3-4**) In view of such plain Bible teaching how can most other churches teach that, "Baptism does not help a person to be saved or to become a Christian?"

Many that have been baptized scripturally have not remained faithful. They have not grown in faith. They have stopped following Christ and are in a worse condition than before they obeyed the gospel. **2 Peter 2:20-22** says *"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."*

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, *"The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."* Jesus said, *"...If you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed."* (**John 8:31**.) All accountable people must be baptized for remission of sins and must remain faithful to God. But, not all who have been baptized are Christians!

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