

Baptism

*Go therefore and disciple all the nations,
baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit—
Matthew 28:19*

1. After we believe into Christ, we need to be baptized

Mark 16:16a (cf. Acts 8:36-37)

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved...

2. Through baptism (signifying our death and resurrection) we change realms

Romans 6:4

We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

a. Baptism saves (transfers) us out of the world

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned.

Acts 2:40b-41a

...Be saved from this crooked generation. Those then who received his word were baptized...

- Two Old Testament types of baptism showing a change in realms:

(1) Noah's ark passing through the flood (Gen. 7:17-34; 1 Pet. 3:20-21)

(2) Israel's crossing the Red Sea (Exo. 14:21-31; 1 Cor. 10:1-2)

b. Baptism puts us into:

(1) The name of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

(2) Christ

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

(3) The death of Christ

Romans 6:3

Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

(4) The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:13

For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Baptism

After we believe into Christ, we need to be baptized

Once a person has believed in the Lord, he must be baptized immediately and not wait one moment. On the day of Pentecost, when the three thousand received the gospel preached by Peter, they believed in the Lord and were baptized immediately (Acts 2:41). The eunuch from Ethiopia believed while on the road, and it was not convenient for him to be baptized, yet he did not hesitate but was baptized immediately after he believed (Acts 8:37-38).¹

The Lord's salvation has many aspects, some of which we need to receive by believing, while others we need to partake of by being baptized. To believe is to exercise the inward faith to receive one aspect of the Lord's salvation; to be baptized is to take an outward action to partake of another aspect of the Lord's salvation.²

Through baptism (signifying our death and resurrection) we change realms

Baptism causes us to be joined to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. His death and burial terminate the self and everything related to the self, freeing us from sin and the world. Only death and burial can cause a person to be terminated. Only death and burial can free a person from sin and release a person from the world. Only the dead can be freed from sin, totally cutting off their relationship with sin. Only the dead can be freed from the world and say "good-bye" to the world. Moreover, only a person who is buried can completely leave the world. In its negative aspect, baptism puts us into Christ's death and burial, freeing us from the self, sin, the world, the things of the old creation, the things of Satan, and everything apart from God. In its positive aspect, baptism joins us to Christ's resurrection. This resurrection causes us to become a new creation, to participate in the divine life in Christ with all its riches, and to enter into the new realm of resurrection where old things

have passed away and everything is made new. This is the reality of baptism and the positive aspect of baptism.³

Baptism is actually a great transfer. Baptism involves first termination, and then germination. In baptism we were transferred out of Adam and into Christ. In our living as Christians, we should be out of Adam and in Christ. No longer should we live in the sphere of Adam; instead we should be living absolutely in the realm of Christ.⁴

Baptism saves (transfers) us out of the world

The word "salvation" has been used freely among us and with much confusion. There is a distinction between salvation and obtaining eternal life. Obtaining eternal life is a personal matter, but salvation is a matter not only of receiving the eternal life personally but also of coming out from a wrong corporate body.⁵

The receiving of eternal life speaks of what one has entered into; it does not speak of what one has come out of. Salvation includes both a coming out of and an entering in. Therefore, the scope of salvation is wider than that of receiving eternal life. It includes being delivered from the world, that is, coming out of the world.

Baptism means to come out of the world. It is a step which we take to free ourselves from the world. Our baptism is a declaration to others that we are out. We are through. We must realize that we have been freed from the old circle and have come out of it. Eternal life is something that our spirit gains before God, but salvation is an act of our separation from the world.⁶

Noah's ark passing through the flood

Noah and his family's passing through the flood within the ark was a type of our passing through baptism. The water of the flood saved them from the corrupted generation and separated them unto a new age. The water of the flood delivered them out of the old manner of life into a new environment; in like manner, the water of

Key Verses

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Romans 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

In baptism we were transferred out of Adam into Christ

baptism delivers us out of the inherited vain manner of life into a manner of life of resurrection in Christ. ⁷

Israel's crossing the Red Sea

Like the passing of Noah's ark through the waters of the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea was a picture of baptism. The waters of the Red Sea were used by God to save His people and separate them from Pharaoh and Egypt. The children of Israel were saved through the Red Sea into the wilderness, where they were free from all bondage and slavery to fulfill God's purpose by building the tabernacle as Gods dwelling place on earth. Likewise, through baptism the New Testament believers are saved from Satan and the world into a realm of resurrection and separation, in which they are free to accomplish God's purpose. ⁸

Baptism puts us into:

The Name of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

To be baptized is to be baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19), that is, to be baptized into the Triune God to have an organic union with Him. The name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is not an empty name but the person, the reality, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The preposition "into" indicates that the baptized one is brought into an organic union with the Triune God. ⁹

Christ

To be baptized is to be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). By believing and being baptized, we have entered and have been immersed into Christ, we have put on Christ, and we have been brought into an organic union with Him. Through our believing we have been joined to Christ to partake of Him. In like manner, through our baptism we have also been identified with Christ to have a share in Him. Hence, faith and baptism bring us into Christ to become persons who are in Christ. ¹⁰

The death of Christ

Since to be baptized is to be baptized into Christ, it is also to be baptized into His death (Rom. 6:3b). Moreover, since we have been brought into an organic union with Christ through baptism, we have also been identified with His all-inclusive death, and we have been buried together with Him and raised together with Him (Rom. 6:4). When we go into the water to be baptized, we walk into the death of Christ by faith, allowing ourselves and everything that belongs to us to be buried in the tomb of the water of baptism, in the burial of Christ. Then, by faith we walk out of the water, and in resurrection we allow the resurrected Christ to live in us that we may live by Him and with Him. ¹¹

The Body of Christ

Finally, we are baptized into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), into one organic entity, with Christ as its life and constituent, to express Christ. All the believers in Christ, regardless of our races, nationalities, and social ranks, have been baptized in one Spirit into one Body. Christ is the life and constituent of this Body, and the Spirit is the reality of Christ. It is in this one living Body that we express Christ. ¹²

Assignment 1

In the space provided, write in your own words the importance of baptism for our Christian life and walk.

Assignment 2

Consider some friends who either need to be baptized or to realize the effectiveness of their baptism. Make a list of a few names and pray for them.

Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Mark 16:16	Matthew 28:19	Romans 6:3-4	Galatians 3:27	1 Corinthians 12:13	Acts 2:38, 22:16	1 Peter 3:20-21

Weekly Memorization Verses

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.