



The Good News

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The Importance of Baptism

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There are many in the religious world that would argue that baptism is simply an “outward sign of an inward faith” or that it is simply “symbolic” and is not necessary for salvation. In fact, most religious groups and denominations will not draw lines on baptism, even if they profess to believe in it. In the end, they may acknowledge it is a “good thing” to do, but they do not believe in, or teach, the necessity of baptism in the saving of souls. However, there are certain lessons we can learn from baptism. The following points help us understand how God has ordained souls to be saved.

1. Baptism is the only way I can be forgiven of my “trespasses” – **Col. 2:11-13**. Paul says that the brethren had been circumcised by a circumcision without hands, the circumcision of Christ. This took place by being baptized. It was through faith that they obeyed, but by the power and “working” of God. As such, they, who once were “dead” because of trespasses, had been “made alive” and received forgiveness.
2. Baptism is a work of faith and obedience – **Gal. 3:26-27**. Paul says that we are all children of God through faith...so how can we know if we are in the faith? “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” While others argue that baptism is a “work” and “works don’t save us”, Paul defines it as the means by which I can be a child of God through faith. The very concept of a saving faith means I allow my belief to spur me to action. It is actions that decide whether my belief has

grown into faith. So, in a very real way...works do indeed save me; works of obedience and faith that God has defined for me; just as repentance and confession are works that save, so also is baptism.

3. The one baptism is the means by which God adds us to only one True church – **Eph. 4:4-5, 1:22-23**. We are told by Paul that there is only one baptism and one body, which he tells us is the church that Jesus died to purchase. I cannot be taught to be a Catholic in a Baptist church, nor can I be taught to be a Mormon in a Methodist church. For me to be a Christian as God defines it, I must be taught, and added, to Christ’s church.
4. There is no racism, sexism, or partiality in Christ’s church – **Gal. 3:27-29, I Cor. 12:13**. Paul makes the point that we have all been baptized into one body, and as such, there is no consideration of race, nationality, gender, or even past deeds in the body of Christ. While there are distinctions made in the roles of men and women, both are of equal importance in the church that belongs to Christ.

These points show how important baptism is to the plan God has established for salvation. It is not difficult to understand. It’s a shame that so many ignore God’s simple message and His simple plan to save them.