



The Good News

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Six Implications 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, the majority of 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. There are implications of what the Bible teaches that resonates to us today to help us understand how God has ordained souls to be saved. Consider the following six:

1 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. In order for me to be a Christian as God defines it, I must be taught, and added, to Christ’s church.

2 THERE IS NO racism, sexism, or partiality in Christ’s church – Gal. 3:27-29, 1 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.

3 THE OLD LAW has indeed ended – Col. 2:11-16. Paul makes the statement that we have been “circumcised with the circumcision made without hands” that comes through baptism. Through this action, our “trespasses” have been forgiven and the “handwriting of requirements” has been nailed to the cross. Amid so many in the religious world who will quote the Ten Commandments as if the Old Law is still binding, it is important to understand the Old Law is no longer a law to the Christian.

4 THERE IS DEMAND from God for me to change my life regarding sin – Rom. 6:1-18. In a religious society that actively teaches that I can live the way I want and still be saved, it is important to consider that, when I am baptized, God says my life (my character and conduct) must change accordingly. Can I continue to sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! I have died to sin in baptism and I can no longer allow myself to be involved in sin.

5 BAPTISM IS THE dividing line between being lost and saved – 1 Pet. 3:20-22. Peter describes how it was water that saved Noah and his family, which one might view as odd considering that it was the ark that saved them, and it was the water that threatened them. However, from a spiritual perspective, it was the sinful nature of man that threatened the righteous Noah and his family, and God saved them from that sinful generation by the flood. There is an antitype which now saves us, which serves as the dividing line between the saved and the unsaved...the water of baptism.

6 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.

These implications of baptism show how God has established His plan 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.