

Salvation: Baptism  
(1 Peter 3:21)

Introduction:

1. According to Jesus,:
  - a. a person's soul is his most valuable possession -- He made this point when He asked 2 thought-provoking questions that are found in Matthew 16:26
  - b. saving our souls is a matter of utmost importance -- He made this point when He revealed His purpose for coming to earth (Luke 19:10).
2. Recently, we have been studying some important Bible subjects that relate to "the salvation of our souls," including:
  - a. the grace of God
  - b. the death of Christ
  - c. hearing God's Word
  - d. believing that Jesus is the Son of God
  - e. repentance
  - f. confession.
3. In this lesson we are studying a number of passages that relate to "baptism."
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. "BAPTISM" IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION
  - A. Jesus included "baptism" in the Great Commission.
    1. (Matthew 28:18-20) "Baptism" is:
      - a. a command of Christ who has *"all power [authority]"*
      - b. for *"all nations"* [everyone]
      - c. *"in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"*
      - d. to be administered *"unto the end of the world."*
    2. (Mark 16:15-16) "Baptism":
      - a. is for those who believe (Acts 8:36-38)
      - b. results in salvation.
  - B. Acts shows how people were baptized as the Great Commission was carried out, including:
    1. 3,000 in Jerusalem on Pentecost (2:37-38, 41)
    2. people in Samaria (8:12)
    3. the eunuch of Ethiopia (8:38)
    4. Saul (9:18; 22:16)
    5. Cornelius and his household (10:48)
    6. Lydia and her household (16:14-15)
    7. the Philippian jailer (16:33)
    8. the Corinthians (18:8)
    9. the 12 men in Ephesus (19:5).
  - C. The Great Commission and these examples of conversion clearly teach that "baptism" is a part of the Lord's plan of salvation.
- II. PASSAGES WRITTEN TO CHRISTIANS [Those who have been saved] REVEAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT "BAPTISM"
  - A. (Romans 6:3-7) We are *"freed from sin"* when we are baptized into the Lord.
  - B. (1 Corinthians 12:13) We are baptized *"into one body"* [the church -- Ephesians 1:22-23].
  - C. (Galatians 3:26-29) When we are *"baptized into Christ"* we become *"children of God,"* we *"put on Christ,"* and we become Abraham's spiritual descendants.
  - D. (Ephesians 4:5) There is only *"one baptism."*
    1. The Bible speaks of other baptisms that have been fulfilled: the baptism of John (Matthew 3:4-6), the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11), and the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17).
    2. The Bible speaks of the baptism of fire that will occur at the judgment (Matthew 3:11-12).

3. The baptism in effect at the present time is the baptism commanded by Christ in the Great Commission -- it is to be obeyed until the world ends (Matthew 28:19-20).

E. (Colossians 2:12) We are *"buried with him [Christ] in baptism."*

F. (1 Peter 3:21) We are saved when we are scripturally baptized.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus invites everyone to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).

2. According to Hebrews 5:9, Jesus is *"the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."*

3. Have you followed the Lord's instructions for the salvation of your soul?