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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

BAPTISM SAVES

It is strange that anyone would deny that baptism saves. The Bible clearly states this fact in the words of **1 Peter 3:21** which reads, “The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” The reference in this passage to “the like figure” refers back to verse 20 where Peter writes of the salvation of Noah and his family in the ark (Genesis 6). In Noah’s day salvation was in a certain physical place, that is, in the ark. Everyone outside of the ark was destroyed. However, it was the water which carried the ark above the destruction of the flood which is why the Bible says, “wherein few, that is eight souls were **saved by water.**”

Today salvation is in a certain **SPIRITUAL LOCATION**, that is, “**in Christ**” (2 Timothy 2:10). Outside of Christ one is lost and without hope of salvation. So, where does baptism enter this picture? As those in the ark were carried by water to their salvation, so obedience to the Lord’s command to be baptized in water carries the penitent, confessing believer into Christ. Note the words of **Galatians 3:27**, “For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.” Since baptism puts one into Christ then where is the spiritual location of one who has not been baptized? The obvious answer is outside of Christ and thus outside of the place of salvation. Since the Bible teaches one cannot be saved outside of Christ and the Bible further teaches that baptism puts one into Christ, then it follows that one who has not been baptized is not saved.

Scriptural baptism must be preceded by faith in Christ (John 8:24), repentance of sin (Acts 17:30) and confession of one’s faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Yet, one is not forgiven of sin until he reaches the blood of Jesus and that takes place in baptism. The Bible tells us, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4). In baptism one spiritually reaches the death of Jesus. The significance of this is that it was in His death that Jesus shed His precious blood (John 19:34). Thus, when one reaches the death of Jesus in baptism he reaches the blood of Jesus that washes away his sins (Matt. 26:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5). When one understands this connection between baptism and the blood of Jesus, then one may also understand why Peter, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote that **BAPTISM SAVES!**