

May 11, 2019

## THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

### THE “REAL” IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

In an article entitled “The Importance of Baptism” the author wrote, “However, baptism is not necessary for salvation. The Bible is clear that you are saved by faith in Christ alone... You don’t have to be baptized to be saved.” What does the Bible actually say about baptism and salvation? “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” (1 Peter 3:21). Who will you believe, the author of this article who says, “you don’t have to be baptized to be saved” or, the Bible which says “baptism doth also now save us?” Are these contradictory statements? You be the judge.

The author states that the importance of baptism is in “publicly declaring that you are a new person because of Jesus Christ.” The truth is that the Bible teaches one does not become a “new person” until after baptism. Romans 6:3-4 states, “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.**” According to this passage walking “in newness of life” does not occur until after one is baptized. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man **be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” The Bible describes one “in Christ” as a new creature. How does one get into Christ? The answer is, “For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ**, have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Since the Bible teaches that only those “in Christ” are new creatures, and since baptism puts one into Christ, it follows that only those who have been baptized are new creatures.

In his effort to deny the necessity of baptism for salvation, the author referred to the thief on the cross stating that he was saved without being baptized. The thief did not live under the New Testament covenant thus he is not a legitimate example of what is required now. The author erroneously stated that Cornelius was not baptized in direct contradiction to what the Bible says (Acts 10:48).

Since baptism is clearly commanded, can one disobey God’s command and still be saved? (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9). The “real” importance of baptism is that one cannot be saved without being baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).