

Simple Lesson on Baptism

Part One

SAVED FROM THE WORLD

The bible says that both sin and the world has been judged by God. Everything that is bad will go to the lake of fire, God's eternal trashcan.

Why do we need to be saved from the world?

1. The world is condemned in the eyes of God (1 Cor 11:32 cf 1 John 2:16)
2. The whole world lies in the evil one (1 John 5:19; Matt 4:8-9)
3. The world crucified Jesus (John 19:19-20)
4. The world is an enemy of God (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15)

When a person is born, he is born into sin and into the world. What is the world? The created world is wonderful and shows forth God's divine characteristics and wisdom. However, Satan has evilly organized a system in the world that takes man's time (seizes, occupies, or usurps man) away from God. Satan uses the good and bad things in this world to systematically take our time and attention away from God. This worldly system (cosmos) is Satan's little kingdom and is the enemy of God. What is the world? Anything that takes you, your money, or your time away from God. Everything you love other than God is an idol and everything that occupies you away from God is the world. Like a game of tug-of-war, the world is always pulling you away from God.

When a person realizes their sinful condition, they repent and receive the Lord as their savior. This saves the person from the judgement of sin, but they are still in the world. How can we break our relationship with the world, change our position, and get out of the world that will be judge by God? Baptism saves us from the world by bringing us out of the world and into God's Kingdom.

A picture or example that helps us understand is the children of Israel getting out of Egypt by crossing the Red Sea. We know the story. The children of Israel started out in Egypt (like us born into the world). However, God wanted His people to come out of Egypt to serve and worship God in the wilderness. God's people could not be special without completely leaving Egypt. Then there were the plagues of blood, locusts, hail, etc. to force Pharaoh, the world ruler, to let God's people go. However, Pharaoh hardened his heart and did not let God's people go out of Egypt even though the plagues troubled Pharaoh greatly. Listen to this! Did you know while God was sending one plague after another to Egypt Pharaoh tried to make a deal with God? In Exodus 8:28, Pharaoh said Israel can go a little distance away but not too far away from him. But God commanded that His people would be completely separated and out of Pharaoh's control. Then in 10:11 Pharaoh said that only the men could leave but the women and children would stay. God said, "No!" God wants

all his people to completely leave Egypt. Not one of God's people should be in or even close to Egypt. Do you see how much effort God's enemy uses to keep you from baptism? He eventually sends his mighty army after you to stop you from leaving the world. How wonderful that all of God's people left and went through the water of the Red Sea which not only separated them from Egypt and Pharaoh, but the water buried Pharaoh's army! Now they were fully saved from Egypt's control and mistreatment of them. God's people were on one side of the Red Sea and Egypt was on the other side, far, far behind them.

Here are some important points.

1. We as God's people need to completely leave the world.
2. Satan will try to prevent you from being baptized by making deals with you. Even saying you don't have to be baptized to serve and worship God. However, with God there is no compromise, no deals, no other way except complete separation.
3. God's way to bring you out of the world is through water.
4. Baptism by water transfers you from one place to another: from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

We are delivered out of darkness into God's light. Baptism transfers us out of Satan's authority into the Kingdom of God that is full of love!

When we get put into the water and then lifted out, we have a solid experience of our deliverance and separation from the world. Indeed, our outward declaration that we are for God and His kingdom is made so real.

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD DECLARATION: The Apostle Paul's experience.

Paul wrote 14 books of the bible. He was a dear Christian that was greatly used by God. However, he did not start out that way. Paul lived at the time of Jesus and was a true and dedicated Jew (a Jew is part of Israel). In fact, Paul was such a dedicated Jew that he put Christians in jail and oversaw their execution. However, Jesus met him one day on the road to Damascus and Paul repented and believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He changed from being a Jew to a Christian! However wonderful his salvation was, it was only inward and not apparent to everyone. In fact, when Paul tried to meet with other Christians everyone was afraid of him. They all heard the stories of how he was part of a group that put Christians in jail and even put them to death. Paul needed to declare to the whole world that something indeed changed within him and that he was not part of that world system that hurts God's people. God's way again is baptism. Baptism was the way that

Paul's terrible sins of hurting Christians could be washed away before the eyes of others. It was Paul's declaration to man and angels that he was for God and not for the world.

Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

This verse shows that:

1. Paul was baptized without delay.
2. Paul's sins including those of hurting God's people, which many knew about, were washed away before them in a public declaration of his salvation.
3. Paul once put Christians who called on Jesus in jail, now Paul became one who called upon the Lord Jesus.

What a declaration, what a transfer, what a change! Paul's baptism was a wonderful declaration to everyone, especially to the Christians, of what happened there on the road to Damascus. It was clear to everyone that Paul was delivered out of the evil world and was now in the Kingdom of God.

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Part Two

Part Two may be advanced for some, though, very profitable. It is recommended that parents and serving ones pray over, digest, and enjoy this portion prior to reading it with a young believer.

BURIED AND RAISED WITH CHRIST JESUS

Now we have seen how experiential baptism is; that is, putting believers into water and raising them out. However, the bible reveals more about baptism. These items might be a little harder to understand but as you grow in the Lord in His word you will understand them more and they will be more real to you.

Romans 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

This is what happened when you prayed to be saved. You realize you couldn't make it. All that you can do is not good enough. So, you put it away. You ask Jesus to forgive you. This is being buried with Christ, that is your put into the water. Then you prayed for a new beginning by asking Jesus to come into your heart, your spirit. When Jesus came into you, you received a new life – the life of God. This is being raised up out of the water. You are raised out of death into the newness of life – resurrection.

A Christian can have an outward experience of being put into His death by being put into the water. The water buries you. Then, just as Jesus was raised from the dead you will be raised out from the water. How wonderful that we can have an outward experience to affirm what really happened when we were saved.

BROUGHT OUT TO BE PUT INTO

We have seen that we have been brought out of every negative thing. But what are we then put into?

There is more meaning behind a Christian being put into the water. As mentioned previously, this will come with time, but it might be profitable to go through them now. Yes, the water signifies death and burial. That is on the negative side. On the positive side, being put into the water signifies being put into many marvelous and wonderful things!

We are put into God, the wonderful divine trinity.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

We are also put into Christ and His death.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ...

Romans 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death...

We are also put into the Body of Christ, the church, by God's Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

This verse shows us that the Christians who are baptized are put into the same place, one Body, one church. God wants all His people to be saved by being brought out from their race, color, status, or culture and into the church, His Body, where we drink the Spirit as our pleasure and enjoyment! This is to enter into the Kingdom of God through baptism (John 3:5). This is where there is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit!

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Appendix

Verses and Prayers for Baptism

*Pray over these verses. Create your own prayers. It is ok to use the ones below. The point is to be real with God and be genuine with God. Whatever you say from your heart.

VERSE:

Colossians 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Lord Jesus, I love you!

Lord, I choose your kingdom.

Lord, put me into your kingdom.

VERSE

Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Lord, thank you for my baptism.

Lord, wash away my sins.

*Before you enter the water it would be very good to say "Oh, Lord Jesus" 3 times

VERSE

Romans 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

Lord, make me new.

Lord, raise me up in newness of life.

Lord, I am for your glory.

Further reading:

Messages for Building Up New Believers (1); CWWN, vol. 48; chapter : Baptism.

Recovery Version Bible; Acts 8:36 w/ footnote 1 & Mark 16:16 w/ footnote 1

We enjoy and experience baptism (water emersion) as:

1. An outwardly solid (tangible) experience of our salvation
2. A declaration of our salvation
3. A transfer from one kingdom to another
4. A deliverance and salvation from the world that is under God's judgement.
5. Buried with Christ to terminate every negative thing
6. Raised with Christ to be new and living
7. Being brought out of negative things and put into many wonderful things:
 - a. Triune God
 - b. Christ
 - c. Death of Christ
 - d. Body of Christ, the Church