

THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

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POINT OF FORGIVENESS / CONTACT JESUS'S BLOOD

- **Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).**
- **“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).**
 - **Baptism is how we receive forgiveness of sins.**
 - **We are not forgiven at the point of faith, as many teach (see Acts 9:3-6; Acts 8:38-39).**
 - **Baptism is how we come into contact with the blood of Christ.**
 - **The death of Christ is of no effect without baptism (see Rom. 6:3).**

CALLING UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

- **“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls”** (Joel 2:32).
- **“12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved’”** (Rom. 10:12-13; see also Acts 2:21).
 - Calling on the name of the Lord is not equivalent to prayer.
 - In order to call upon the name of the Lord, those on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized (**Acts 2:38**); prayer is never mentioned.
 - Saul prayed as a believer in **Acts 9:11**, but he didn’t call on the name of the Lord until he did what Ananias said in **Acts 22:16**.

CALLING UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

- Additionally, the very context of Rom. 10 never mentions prayer, but it does mention faith and a verbal confession of that faith.
 - **8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:8-14).**
- We must meet all conditions of calling upon the name of the Lord in order to truly call on Him.

BECOME CHILD OF GOD / PUT ON CHRIST

■ **“26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”** (Gal. 3:26-28).

■ To get “into” Christ, we must “put on” Christ, which is accomplished through baptism.

■ **“16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— 17 heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”** (Rom. 8:16-17).

■ You must become a child of God through baptism in order to become an heir of Christ.

■ The promises of Christ, in Christ, and through Christ are only available to those who have been baptized into Him.

NEW LIFE / NEW CREATURE / SET FREE FROM SIN

- **“11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Col. 2:11-12).**
 - Baptism is where we arise to walk in newness of life. It is where sin is figuratively buried while our earthly bodies are literally buried (immersed) in water.

NEW LIFE / NEW CREATURE / SET FREE FROM SIN

Rom. 6:4-18 teaches that if we have not been baptized, we have not:

- Been raised from death/sin (**v.4**).
- Been united together in the likeness of Christ's death nor His resurrection (**v.5**).
- Had our old man crucified, meaning our bodies of sin have not been put away yet (**v.6**).
- Been made alive to God in Christ Jesus (**v.11**).
- Been obedient, which means we are not righteous (**v.16**).
- Obeyed from the heart the doctrine delivered to us (**v.17**).
- Been set free from sin (**v.7, 18**), which means we are still slaves to sin.

ENTER THE KINGDOM / JOIN THE BODY OF CHRIST

▪ **1** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:1-5).

- Since **Rom. 6:3-6** teaches the Old Man / New Man transition happens at the time of baptism, it confirms the new birth happens at baptism as well since it is the same analogy.
- Unless we are born again in water baptism, we cannot enter the kingdom of God.

ENTER THE KINGDOM / JOIN THE BODY OF CHRIST

- **“12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many” (1 Cor. 12:12-14).**
- **“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them . . . praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:41,47).**
 - **We are not members of the body – Christ’s body [the church] – unless we have been baptized.**

SALVATION

- **“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”** (Mark 16:16).
 - The little word “and” shows it takes both belief and baptism to receive salvation from sin.
 - If a person does not have belief that leads them to be baptized, they will not be saved; they will be condemned.
 - Some say the second part of Mark 16:16 doesn't mention baptism, and therefore baptism must not be necessary. But there was no need to mention baptism in the second part; if a person doesn't believe, he is not qualified to be baptized anyway (see **Acts 8:36-37**).

SALVATION

■ **“18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him” (1 Pet. 3:18-22).**

- We have to be baptized to be saved. This does not mean we merit our salvation by being baptized. The blood of Christ earns our salvation. Baptism is simply a condition God requires to access the blood of Christ.

CONCLUSION

We understand that Jesus died for all, but not all are going to be saved.

- **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).**

Won't you do the will of the Father?

If you have not yet been baptized, then won't you be baptized today?