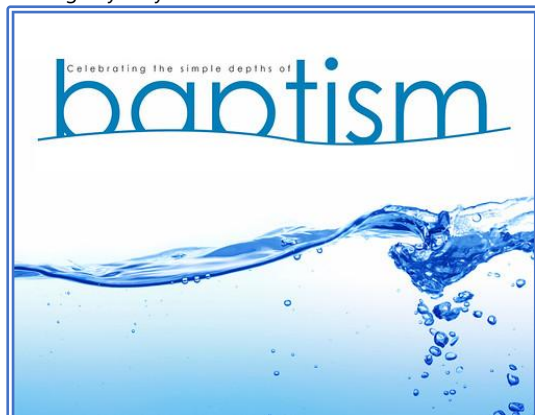




A Study of Biblical

BAPTISM

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them*

*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28:19-20

Study #4 – THE BALANCED VIEW OF BAPTISM

While we have seen in our first three studies the importance, significance, and purpose of baptism, it still needs to be pointed out that baptism isn't of any benefit by itself – it must be viewed in balance with the other elements involved in God's eternal plan of salvation for "all nations/people" on earth. Therefore, to solidify and simplify the teachings on baptism, let us consider these closing truths so that baptism is understood and applied in its proper context.

THE SYMBOL OF BAPTISM

The significance and proper order of baptism is clearly depicted in the symbolic imagery of *Romans 6:3-4*:

*"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**?
We were therefore **buried with him** through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was
raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new life**."*

Note this "timeline" that depicts the actions and results of one's baptism:

OLD LIFE >>> DEATH **BURIED** **RAISED >>> NEW LIFE**

From this, understanding clearly:

- While the water in baptism is symbolic of cleansing, baptism is more than a _____ of salvation.
- It is clearly a _____ in the death, burial, and resurrection as spiritual cleansing takes place.
- It is also the _____ point from darkness to light; lost to saved; old to new life!

THE CLEANSING IN BAPTISM

The _____ of cleansing sins

- *John 19:34* **blood** in his death
- *Matt. 26:28* **blood** for forgiveness of sins
- *Rev. 1:5* **blood** washes away sins

The _____ of cleansing sins

- *Romans 6:3* **baptized** into his death
- *Acts 2:38* **baptized** for forgiveness of sins
- *Acts 22:16* **baptized** to wash sins away

THE BALANCED VIEW OF SALVATION

There is both a _____ and a _____ side to the process of salvation. One is what has been done from heaven's standpoint: the love, heart, and grace of God; the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay our sin debt; and even the work of the Holy Spirit in leading us to salvation. However, there is nothing we humans can do that can dare compare with what the Godhead has done. Read *Titus 3:3-7*

But there is the other element where people must receive (respond, accept, obey) this incredible gift and promise of eternal life. *John 14:15; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 2:3* – "How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?"

Satan's Strategic Steps of sin

- The **Love** of sin – *Romans 1:29-31*
- The **Lies** of Satan – *Romans 1:25, 28*
- The **Practice** of Sin – *Romans 1:32*
- The **State** of Sin – *Romans 6:1-2*
- The **Guilt** of Sin – *Romans 3:10, 23*
- The **Power** of Sin – *Romans 7:23*
- The **Result** of Sin – *Romans 6:23a*

God's Strategic Answers for our Salvation

- _____ destroys the love of sin – *Romans 1:16-17*
- _____ counters Satan's lies – *Romans 10:8-9*
- _____ stops the practice of sin – *Romans 6:11-13*
- _____ changes our status in sin – *Romans 6:3-5*
- _____ releases that guilt – *Romans 8:1-2*
- _____ Holy Spirit overcomes – *Romans 8:9-11*
- _____ is our gift and promise! – *Romans 6:23b*

Conclusion: None of what God does or how we obey are in conflict with one another – there is total harmony!