

Does Water Baptism Save Your Soul?

By: David A. Sargent

Why is water baptism so important? There is no saving grace in water baptism; so it makes no difference as to what name as long as it is the LORD. That name applies to just about any name of the Godhead. Besides all that it really is NOT an essential issue because salvation is NOT dependent on water baptism or what name you were water baptized in, or by, or unto, or into, or whatever. You don't get IN CHRIST by water baptism. Water never saved anyone from hell fire and damnation.

Salvation is found only in a person! You MUST receive HIM! John 1:12-13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Remission of sins is not found in water baptism it is found in the BLOOD of Christ. Matthew 26:28, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." And Romans 3:24-30, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith."

The trouble with all this water baptism name issue is that it is a self-righteous attempt to be self-justified in that you did it right in the right name and all that. But that water never touched your soul or your spirit. It cannot save your soul and it cannot give your spirit the new birth. That is the main issue: you need a new birth!

John 3:5-7, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Many people that get involved in which name to get water baptized in believe in baptismal regeneration and use this passage to prove water saves. But it does not say water baptism; it says "...born of water..." and the interpretation of that is in the passage context: "...born of flesh is flesh..." (A text without a context is a pretext!) I have seen 5 children born; and right before that happens in every case: 5 out of 5; her water breaks! Born

of water never is a reference to baptism anywhere in the Bible. Here it is a reference to physical birth. The context prior to this also shows this with Nicodemus' question that in turn was answered by the Lord: John 3:4, "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" He knew that water birth was physical birth or the Lord would not have answered that in the way that He did.

Water Baptism is the first step in following the Lord; so get baptized in the name of the Lord. So in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" that would be the name of the LORD.

Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The name of Jesus Christ would be the name of the LORD.

So in Acts 8:15-16, "Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)" did they not get water baptized right? They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus so that is also the name of the LORD.

Acts 10:48, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." This one is a bit obvious right? So is it wrong to be baptized in the name of the Lord? Or do you have to be baptized in the personal name of the Lord? What if you were not baptized in the name of Jesus? Does that affect your salvation?

Acts 19:5, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." And so being baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus is also being baptized in the name of the Lord.

See the trouble is there is not any consistent name aside from the LORD. So all the above can apply. There is no set pattern or formula that makes your water baptism better than someone else's. If you think water saves then you are trusting in your own righteousness and then you do need a formula to get it right; so which passage would you go by? IF your water baptism is essential for salvation you better had been water baptized the right way in the right place and in the right name. But wait; did you water baptize yourself? NO! Someone else did that for you. Did they do it right? Perhaps they were supposed to face east! What if they dunked you under the water and you didn't hear what name you were baptized in? If you are trusting in your water baptism then you are ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish your own righteousness:

Romans 10:3-4, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Salvation is found IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST alone! You must believe in HIM. He is eternal life.

You cannot add to what He has done for you. Salvation is not "faith alone" because you can have faith in many things other than the Lord Jesus Christ and you will NOT be saved. But you cannot have faith in Christ and faith in works too. They are contrary to each other.

You cannot work to get salvation, you cannot work to lose salvation, you cannot work to get saved over and over again. What you do is NOT the issue. What you are IS the issue because the Lord came to save SINNERS!

Matthew 9:13, "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Mark 2:17, "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:32, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

YOU NEED TO REPENT OF WHAT YOU ARE TURN FROM YOUR OWN SELF AS A SINNER IN YOUR OWN SELF-RIGHTOUSNESS AND TURN TO GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal savior. He must be YOUR propitiation. He must be your salvation. Without HIM you will die in your sins because you are a sinner. When you come to HIM and receive HIM you become a son of God.

John 1:12,13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

