

## BAPTISM & THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

A. **Most will not argue** the necessity of faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, & confession of faith in order to obtain God's forgiveness of sin & salvation, but many will deny the role & necessity of baptism....

1. Naaman the Syrian commander thought he should be cleansed in keeping with his own ideas, & without having to obey the command of the prophet Elisha (2 Kgs 5).
2. Many think they can be cleansed of their sins without being scripturally baptized as God has commanded in the gospel (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:16).

B. **Some will reason**, "What does a physical act have to do with a spiritual relationship?" **The answer....**

---

**Rom 6:17-18** – But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 ***And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.***

---

1. Water baptism is a physical act that results in a new spiritual relationship, you become a slave to a different Master – The Author of Righteousness

C. **Can you think** of a better way to illustrate:

1. The washing away of sins (Acts 22:16), a death, burial & resurrection (Rom 6:3-7), & a new birth (Jn 3:3, 5) than by immersing in water a penitent believer, just as Christ has commanded.
2. And yet baptism is more than an illustration of a spiritual relationship.

[To understand how baptism fits into God's eternal plan for man's redemption & salvation, we must see the link between baptism & blood of Christ.]

### I. JESUS' BLOOD & BAPTISM

A. **God's eternal purpose** (Eph 3:6; 1:3-14).

## 1. HOW did God effect these blessings?

---

**Eph 1:7-8** – In Him *we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*, according to the riches of His grace & which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom & prudence,

---

## 2. Were they passive recipients of these blessings?

- a. The Ephesians “heard, believed, trusted” the message of the gospel of Christ (cf. **Eph 1:13; Acts 19:1-7**); they were baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (**Acts 19:5**).
- b. And what did God do for these who were baptized into the name of the Lord? *The apostle Peter answers that question for us.*

---

**1 Peter 3:18-21** – 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 & 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,

---

1. The word “answer” means *appeal, inquiry, seeking after earnestly* – In NT baptism, one is appealing to God for a good conscience.

[Syllogism: (major, minor premise, conclusion): Clear conscience is necessary for salvation (**Rom 14:23; 1 Tim 1:5**). Baptism is necessary for a clear conscience. Therefore, baptism is necessary for salvation.]

## II. SHED BLOOD & SINS FORGIVEN

- A. **Shed blood** has always played a special role in God's dealing with sins.
  1. Under every covenant between God & man, blood has held power to release man from sin; blood shed that causes a death.

---

**Heb 9:19-22** – For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves & goats, with water, scarlet wool, & hyssop, & sprinkled both the book itself & all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.” 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle & all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, & **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

---

2. Why does the shedding of blood have such power?

a. The shedding of blood is the giving up of a life (it is a death), & death is the penalty for sin (**Rom 6:23; Deut 12:23**).

B. **For many centuries**, God allowed the blood of animals to be a satisfactory penalty for sins, but He replaced those sacrifices with one final offering.

---

**Heb 9:26** – ...but *now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.* – Blood implied.

**1 Pet 1:17-19** – And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; **18 *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,*** **19 *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot.*** (**John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7; Rev 13:8; 1:5**)

---

[Jesus was & is the true “lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” – “our Passover... sacrificed for us” – “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” – “who loved us & washed us from our sins in His own blood.”]

### III. SHED BLOOD MUST BE APPLIED

#### A. Old Testament examples:

1. Blood was applied to the house of Israel & the houses of the Israelites in Egypt (**Exo 12:1-13**) to protect from death resulting from God's wrath against sin.
2. Blood was applied to Israel at Sinai (**Exo 24:6-8**) to seal His covenant & sanctify His nation.
3. Blood was applied to the priests to set apart or sanctify them for their service in the His house (**Exo 29:19-21**).

[When is the sin cleansing power of Jesus' blood applied to the sinner in order that God will forgive his sins?]

### IV. SHED BLOOD APPLIED & SINS FORGIVEN

- A. **As the blood of lambs** was applied to Israel, today the ***blood of Christ*** must be applied before a sinner can begin serving God.

---

**Heb 9:13-14** – For if the blood of bulls & goats & the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 ***how much more shall the blood of Christ***, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

---

1. Remember, the blood of the Passover was applied to House of Israel – *The church is the House of God purchased by the blood of Christ* (1 Tim 3:15; Acts 20:28).
2. And Israel was sprinkled with blood in the Mosaical covenant – *Christians are sprinkled (symbolically) by the blood of the New Covenant* (Matt 26:28; Heb 10:19, 22).
3. And the Old Test. priests were consecrated for service by blood – *Christians have been consecrated by the blood of Christ to be a kingdom of priests unto God* (1 Pet 2:5; Rev 1:5-6).

- B. **But when is** the blood of Christ applied?

1. When one is scripturally baptized: when a penitent believer in the gospel is immersed.

---

**Rom 6:3** – Or do you not know that ***as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?***

---

What occurred at His death? His blood was shed.

**John 19:34** – But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, & immediately blood & water came out.

---

2. If there was ever any doubt that the act of NT baptism was connected to the forgiveness of sins & salvation, then listen to what Paul said...

---

**Col 2:10-13** – 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.*** 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses & the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, ***having forgiven you all trespasses,***

---

3. “Faith in the working of God”, is when we believe that just as the power of God raised Jesus from the dead, by that same power He will raise us up to a new spiritual life because He has removed that which was separating us from Him, our trespasses & sins – and that occurs at baptism.

[It has been said that faith in the gospel changes the heart – repentance of the will changes the life – but baptism in water in the name of Christ, changes our relationship to the Creator (Gal 3:26-27; Rev 14:13; 1 Cor 12:13; Col 1:18; Eph 5:23)]

## CLOSING

- A. **Baptism is a starting point**, but it is the only starting point for those who seek every spiritual blessing the the heavenly places.
- B. **Are you ready to begin** your new life (Rom 6:5)?
1. Then, through baptism, you must be united with the Lord in the likeness of His death.
  2. If you will obey His will, then you will also be in the likeness of His resurrection, as one living a new life without sin.

## GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

**Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible:** Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

**Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior:** Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

**Repent of your sins:** Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ:** Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

**Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge:** Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48