

BAPTISM WILL NOT WASH AWAY SOME THINGS

(Acts 22:6-16)

A. **Most** people believe Saul was saved on the road to Damascus, & that he entered the city a saved man forgiven of all his sins.

1. But if that were true, then Saul is the only person ever saved from his sins while still being in his sins (guilty of them).
 - a. Because Ananias told Saul, before he was baptized, that he had sins to wash away.
 - b. Not to mention, Saul was blind, fasting & praying for mercy & answers to his dilemma before Ananias came to him.
2. In Acts 22:16 Ananias explained the divine purpose of baptism – it is the method by which we call on the name of the Lord so that He will wash away our sins.

Mark 16:16 – *He who believes & is baptized will be saved*; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 – Then Peter said to them, “Repent, & let every one of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**; & you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:21 – The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer [appeal] of a good conscience toward God**.) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- B. **Baptism IS NOT** many things: a mere profession of your faith; proof of your salvation; an “outward sign of an inward grace”; something you should do because you have already been saved from the consequences of your sins against God.
- C. **Baptism** – in response to one’s faith in the gospel of Christ – **IS** something we must do to be saved!

[**Jesus** shed His blood on Calvary’s cross to redeem & to forgive us (1 Pet 1:19; Eph 1:7). **True** baptism is an act that connects us to the death of Christ where His blood was shed (Rom 6:4). **Therefore**, *baptism has the power to wash away our sins*. **When** we are baptized we must put our faith in the working of God who raised Jesus from the dead. **At** that point we go from a state of death to life with God having been forgiven of all our trespasses (Col 2:12-13).

This power of baptism is not in the water, but in the action God takes when we obey Him (Naaman the leper – 2 Kings 5).

But there are some things that God has NOT empowered baptism to wash away.

I. THE PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SINS

A. **The** spiritual result of ALL sin is death or separation from God (Rom 6:23).

1. But that's not something we can see is it?
2. Spiritual death, as the result of our sin, is a reality that we have to accept "by faith".
 - a. That's why so few people do anything about their sins – they have no faith, which comes from God's word, to know when they sin, & the have no knowledge of what God requires them to do when they have sinned.

B. **But** while we may not be able to see the spiritual consequences of our sins, there are many physical consequences that stare us in the face every day.

1. David was forgiven of his sin with Bathsheba, (Psa 32:5; 103:2) but he had to endure many physical consequences.
 - a. The sword of bitterness & warfare did not depart from his house.
 - b. An enemy was born into his own family, from among his own children.
 - c. His wives were defiled openly.
 - d. The child from his adulterous affair died at his birth (2 Sam 12:7-14).
2. Why? Because David had to reap what he had sown (Gal 6:7-8).
3. God will not allow us to escape the physical consequences of our sins.

- a. And that is a blessing, because the physical consequences of our sins remind us of the more far-reaching spiritual consequences of our sins.

- 4. When we choose to violate God's law, events are put into motion that cause us to suffer physically & mentally in this life.

[God will take away the spiritual consequences of our sins, if we belong to Him, but He has never promised to take away the physical results of our sins.

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II. THE MEMORY OF SINS

Heb 8:10-12 – For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind & write them on their hearts; & I will be their God, & they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, & none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 ***For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, & their sins & their lawless deeds I will remember no more.***

- A. God has the ability to forgive our sins & then to forget what we have done against Him.

- 1. But we have problems with both forgiveness & forgetfulness when it comes to sin, whether it is our sin or someone else's sin.

- 2. But with God, a sin forgiven is a sin forgotten, & so it ought to be with us.

- a. The Christian cannot approach God in prayer to request forgiveness until he has forgiven others ([Matt 6:14](#)).

- b. {In spite of the fact that forgiveness from God will require their repentance & confession.}

- c. But we have an equally difficult task, & that is to forgive ourselves after God has forgiven us.

B. We should never confuse the memory of our past sins with the guilt we feel from doing those things.

1. I have heard people say, “I just don’t feel forgiven”, but if we have done what God’s word tells us to do, we are forgiven.
2. Paul was forgiven & yet he remembered his past sins.
 - a. He did not linger on those errors to wallow in self-pity; he remembered them because he learned a good lesson from them (1 Tim 1:12-16).

[Perhaps the reason we cannot forgive ourselves of our past sins is because we so often repeat them.

We need to remember the lessons we have learned from our sins, because that memory will help us in our resolve to never do those things again.

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III. THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE

A. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus said some will receive His word with joy, but they soon fall away because of tribulation & persecution (Matt 13:5-6, 20-21).

{sickness, sorrow, death, family problems, injustice, financial strains}

B. Christians have to face the same difficulties in life as the unsaved; THAT is the consequence of having been removed from the Garden of Eden.

1. But in addition there are difficulties, for Christians, which come as a result of their obedience to the Word of God

Acts 14:22 – strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, & saying, “**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**”

2 Tim 3:11-12 – **what persecutions I endured.** AND OUT OF THEM ALL THE LORD DELIVERED ME. 12 **Yes, & all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

[God will not deliver us from all difficulties, but He will walk us safely through them. **Baptism** will not wash away...]

IV. THE MARRIAGE BOND

Matt 19:9 (Quote **19:4-6**) – And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, & marries another, **commits adultery**; & whoever marries her who is divorced **commits adultery**.

A. If **anyone** divorces a spouse for a reason other than fornication & marries another, that is an adulterous relationship.

B. **Some** will argue that baptism will wash away the previous marriage bond, or the sin of an adulterous marriage, & that God will allow one to keep his current mate after baptism.

1. John the Baptist told Herod that he had no right to be married to Herodias, because she was another man's lawful wife (**Mk 6:17-18**).

a. Their marriage was unlawful because God bound Herodias to her first husband, not because she & Herod were not Christians.

[**Those** who are in marriages where God has not bound them have no right to that relationship, & their souls are in peril until they end it.

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V. THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING LOST

A. **The** false concept that *once you are saved you cannot be lost* may seem comforting to some, but how can any idea bring us peace if it is entirely untrue?

(**1 Jn 5:13; Heb 5:9**)

1. The Word of God **DOES** teach the security of the believer, but it **DOES NOT** teach the security of the unbeliever (**Gal 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20-22**)

[**Baptism** is not the last step in securing our soul's salvation, it is the first step in a life of faithful service to God.]

CLOSING: **Baptism** is an essential & powerful command from God to accomplish His purpose, but we can't attribute some power to baptism that it does not possess.