



Water Baptism

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Introduction:

We will conclude our worship this morning by celebrating with 3 people who are following Christ in water baptism. This is a significant step in their Christian walk. One of the ways we express that we are followers of Christ is through water baptism. Let me encourage you this morning to reflect and affirm the faith which you hold to as we look to God's word and in obedience follow His directive to baptize believers.

I want to speak about baptism in a different light this morning. In looking at baptism I want us to look at it as a symbol of judgment for sin.

Turn with me this morning to [1 Peter 3:15-22](#)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but was made alive by the Spirit, through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him.

- I. Through baptism we testify that in our heart we have set Jesus as Lord.
- II. Through baptism we testify to the hope that we have.
- III. Through baptism we testify to the fact of Christ's death and resurrection.
- IV. Through baptism we testify that there is salvation from judgment,

There are two ways God's word indicates a judgment of sin. He has judged the world for sin by water through the flood. In that flood all flesh died, except

Noah and his wife and sons. Eight people were saved. (1 Peter 3:20-21) It was the judgment of God on people who were evil and violent and imagined all kinds of evil and followed that evil rather than God. The people who were descendants of Adam and Eve had moved so far away from God that God determined to destroy every person and was sorry that He made man, and it hurt His heart. God will judge sin.

[Romans 6:23](#) - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Death was the penalty for sin, and the waters of the flood were sent to bring judgment. That baptism also

caused a separation between the righteous and the wicked.

You ask, "Why was Noah saved?" He was a righteous individual who walked with God and who lived differently from those around him. Noah was mentioned in Hebrews 11 as a man of faith. He was judged righteous because of his obedience and trust in God. We are here today because of His walk with God and God's covenant with him.

God sent the flood and there was a baptism of water in which the entire earth was covered. The righteous were judged and saved to live. Noah and the other 7 human beings in the ark went through that baptism of water through the flood and were saved. The wicked were judged through the baptism of water and died in the flood.

Anyone who would have believed the message of repentance that Noah preached would have been saved, and could have come into the ark. Just by Noah's lifestyle the world was condemned of its wickedness. The fact remains that whoever would have believed and reacted in faith would have been saved. Salvation comes as a result of faith and repentance.

Jesus Himself referred to the great wickedness that was present in Noah's time and that it would be exactly the same at the time He came back.

Matthew 24:37-39 - As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

There is another time of judgment that is yet to come. It is a judgment of fire.

2 Peter 3:12 - As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming, that day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

So what does all this have to do with baptism?

Baptism speaks of faith, obedience and salvation. The believer who follows Christ in water baptism is

giving witness to the work of God's grace and salvation in their lives.

CHRIST DIED FOR SINS ONCE FOR ALL. The purpose of Christ's death was to bring us to God. (1 PETER 3:18)

Those who follow Christ in baptism are witnessing to the truth that the death of Christ has brought them to God. In their heart, they have set apart Christ as Lord.

It's wonderful to know Jesus as your savior, but He also wants you to know Him as the Lord of your life. The judgment for anyone who has repented of their sin and trusted in Christ's work of death and resurrection has already been satisfied. Baptism in water is a witness to the fact that sin has been judged, the death of their Savior has been offered on their behalf and He is living His life within them. Jesus is given first place.

Those who follow Christ in baptism are also testifying to the hope that they have. They have hope that Christ has cleansed them from sin. They have hope that even though their physical body dies, they will be resurrected to walk in newness of life. The scripture tells us that if we have been planted in the likeness of His death, we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:17-23 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him.

Believers who are baptized, testify that there has been a change within. They have been made a new creation. They have crossed over from spiritual death to spiritual life.

John 5:24 - "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

I PETER 3:21 says this water symbolizes baptism that “now saves you also.”

There is only one thing that can wash away our sin. It is the blood of Jesus.

The water of baptism then isn't our salvation from sin, but it speaks of the fact that our sin has been judged and paid for by death. We have been washed and raised in Christ to live and walk in a new life. Baptism is not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.

One of the questions I ask in the baptism class is why was Jesus baptized. He never sinned. He never needed to repent. In baptism we identify with Christ and His death and resurrection. I believe that the answer lies in the fact of identifying with our humanity. If water baptism is a picture of judgment for sin, then it makes sense that Christ would be baptized, speaking of the judgment of death HE would pay for the sin of the whole world.

Baptism saves us in the union of his death and resurrection. We are saved because of His power to be resurrected. There is a purpose for our salvation. It is to bring glory to God eternally.

God's word tells us this in [Col. 2:9-15](#), “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the

head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Baptism speaks of the fact that the believer has surrendered their sin and old nature to Christ and the cross. They have been united with Him in His death by faith, they are in union with Him by being buried in waters of baptism, and so they are in union with Him to walk in the power of His resurrection.

Each person who has been baptized and those I baptize this morning have given witness to these facts! Together lets rejoice in the newness of life we have been given. Together let's rejoice in the power of Christ's resurrection. Together let's rejoice in our hope this morning.