

(note This lesson has reproducible areas to be used in a powerpoint presentation or can be used as a slide show using your picture program.) Del T.

## **“Step into the Water, Is baptism Essential to salvation?”**

**Opening:** As we travel the country we talk to a lot of kind folks who don't believe that Baptism is essential to their salvation. They believe it is important but not essential to their salvation. We have even visited and studied with “Pastors” who had never seen or studied some of these verses about baptism. Everything in the Bible is important but when God has some life and death language included we can tell if it is important or essential...

Ac 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

**Ac 2:38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Some important things are essential and must be obeyed here in this life.

- I. **How can we tell between the essential and the important? When god says does it or dies. Using common sense live or die.**
  - A. **1co 6:9 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,”**  
**What God has said in this matter is no inheritance for these people. This is a life and death statement from God. Stop this unrighteousness. This essential not important.**
  - B. **Essential words from John. Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Joh 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."**
  - C. **Believe!**
    - a. **We must believe in Jesus or we will die in our sins. Believe ok but is there anything else Lord?**  
**The Lord says yes...**
  - D. **Repent!**
    - a. **Lu 13:3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**
    - b. **Lu 13:5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."**  
**Any thing else Lord? Yes.**
  - E. **Confess!**

- a. **Mt 10:32** "Therefore whoever **confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **Mt 10:33** "But whoever **denies Me before men**, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

**These all are essential. How can we tell? Because they have reward or punishment statements given in them or "life and or death language in them."**

**II. What about baptism? Because it is essential does that mean that it isn't a gift? That it isn't by God's grace, we are saved? No**

**(go to example ...I use the \$100.00 that I will give to you...out in the middle of my pond. I don't find people having problems understanding that to get the \$100.00 they have to step into the water to go get it. Water is not the giver of the money it would be me the giver. Water is not the giver of salvation it is found only from Jesus. But I had to step into the water to go get the gift of salvation from God. Water is just the place it is still the gift of God it is by His grace that we are saved. ) It is not by works. (note acts 2:37"Men and brethren, what shall we do?", these ones who had just crucified the savior know they had to :DO something." To be regenerated to God.**

**A. Water is the place...Real water not birth water..**

**Tit 3:3** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

**Tit 3:4** But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

**Tit 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

**Tit 3:6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**B. When are we born again in water and the spirit ?**

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

b. **Eph 1:13** In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

c. **Tit 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

**(Story of II Kings 5:ff)**

**2ki 5:1** Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. **2ki 5:9**

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisa's house.

**2ki 5:10** And Elisa sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

**2ki 5:11** But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

**2ki 5:12** "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

**2ki 5:13** And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

**C. God cleaned me of my sin problem in the water of baptism. But just like Elisha I know the work was not in the water. It was in my obedience to the gospel. Elisha was clean when he did what God prophet is told him to do. Not just once into the water for Elisha but 7 times not clean after 6.... But on the 7<sup>th</sup> time 2ki 5:14** So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

**Why did God want this to be done? Notice what happened here.**

**2ki 5:15** And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

**D. It is not by works of mine but it is by work...that sounds like a rhetorical statement but notice; "Col 2:12 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. The work is not done by us but by God.**

**Ac 22:16** 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

**Because we go to the water to get the gift doesn't take away the gift. That is what the people did on the day of Pentecost after they heard Peter preach...Repent and be baptized or parish.**

**Ac 2:41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them **Ac 2:47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**They didn't wait for a week or for a special time...the next Bible camp...they knew that "If the Lord were to come with out salvation they were lost."**

**III. If we were there to help the writers put it down in word we could understand . How would you have them to be written?**

**A. "You must be baptized.**

1. **Joh 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **Joh 3:4** Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

**B. Be baptized and you will be saved."**

1. **Mr 16:16** "He who believes and is **baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

**( Experiment...High church theology...Low church view and Gods view... "What the Bible says.**



**A.** This is what the High church believes....that because of original sin babies are born with sin so they must be baptized (even though they are sprinkled) then that saves them but later they are confirmed in what they believe ... Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

**B.** Low church says. "The high church is wrong in what they believe one is not baptized saved then baptized. They will say it is important to be baptized but not essential to your salvation. You just have to give your hart to God and say the sinner's prayer. Then a week or some time later when you want to you can be baptized.

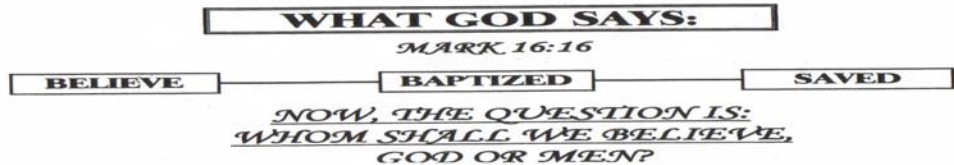


**But what one does tattles on what one believes. They are saying that we are saved without being baptized.**

**C. Still another group says all you have to be to believe to be saved .**



D. What does God say?



**Mr 16:16** "He who **believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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

Ro 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Ro 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

Ro 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Conclusion:

**A. If order is important and how it is said is important then;** "1pe 3:21 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

**B. Baptism is when we get salvation;** "Ro 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**Ro 6:4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Ro 6:5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

**The church is not the savior. Jesus is. Ga 3:26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Ga 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**It is in the putting on of Christ that one becomes a Christian!**

**Ro 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

**1co 15:1** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

**1co 15:2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**1co 15:3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

**1co 15:4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

**Ro 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

**Ro 6:2** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

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

**Ro 6:4** Therefore we were buried with **Him through baptism into death**, ( **That is where we get into his bloods**) that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Ro 6:5** For if we have been united together in **the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in **the likeness of His resurrection**,

**Ro 6:9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

**Ro 6:10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God

**What God says is what counts. Now the question is whom shall we believe God or Man. I choose God**

**“What if the Lord were to come right now, would you know for sure you would go to heaven to be with HIM?”**