

Sermon Notes 10/12/25

# **The Meaning of Baptism**

## **El significado del bautismo**

**What is the meaning of baptism?**  
**¿Cuál es el significado del bautismo?**

1. Baptism is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
El bautismo es una imagen del \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 3:18 (1 Pedro 3:18)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (1 Corintios 15:1-4)

Romans 6:3-4 (Romanos 6:3-4)

2. Baptism now \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
El bautismo ahora te \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 3:21 (1 Pedro 3:21)

Acts 2:38 (Hechos 2:38)

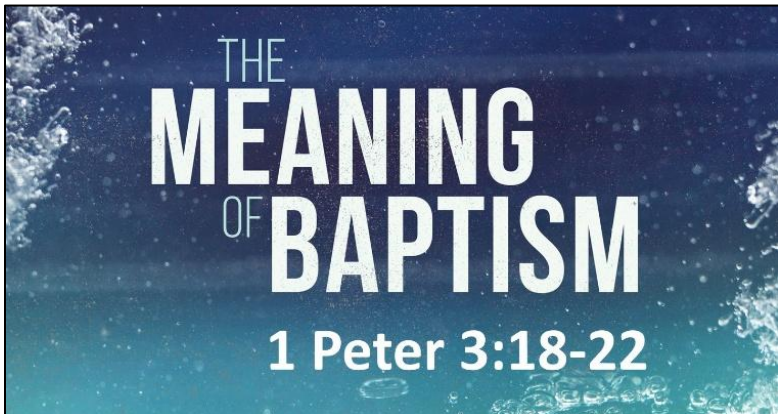
Acts 22:16 (Hechos 22:16)

3. Baptism is the work of \_\_\_\_\_.  
El bautismo es la obra de \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 3:21 (1 Pedro 3:21)

Colossians 2:12 (Colosenses 2:12)

Matthew 28:18-20 (Mateo 28:18-20)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

**Week 7: October 12**

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

Contrary to the health and wealth gospel proclaimed by false teachers, God never promised that our lives in this world would be free from sickness, sorrows, and suffering. In fact, Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). In 1 Peter 3, Peter writes about the victory Christ won over the evil forces of this world. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He defeated sin, death, and Satan. In this passage, Peter also reminds us of our baptism and how it is the key moment in our lives when we are saved and united with Christ in His death and resurrection. While we face many troubles in this world, we can know for certain that if we are united with Christ, we will be victorious with Him forever.

## **Read 1 Peter 3:18-22**

1. For whose sins did Christ die? (3:18)
2. How many times did Christ die for our sins? (3:18; Hebrews 7:27)

Jack Cottrell comments,

This was in contrast with the animal sacrifices made under the OT system, which had to be repeated over and over, as the book of Hebrews emphasizes (7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10-14). It is also in contrast with the endlessly repeated “sacrifice of the Mass” in Roman Catholic ritual. With Jesus, once was enough. Paul refers to Jesus’ death as the “one act of righteousness” that was sufficient to counteract all sin once for all time (Rom. 5:15-19). (Cottrell, 229)

3. Who are the “righteous” and the “unrighteous” in verse 18?
4. Why did Christ die for your sins? (3:18)
5. What does Peter mean when he says that Jesus was “made alive by the Spirit” (NIV)? (3:18)
6. When did Christ preach to the spirits in prison? (3:19)

Jack Cottrell writes,

The lost people from the time of Noah are cited as an example of the wicked dead in general. They heard Noah preach (2 Peter 2:5) but rejected his message. Thus, all of the wicked dead, existing only as spirits without their bodies, end up in Hades to await the final judgment. This seems to be where Jesus was, at least part of the time, between his death and his resurrection... The point here is that Jesus is proclaiming his triumphant victory over his enemies, even before the resurrection takes place. (Cottrell, 231-233) (See Colossians 2:15)

7. What does Peter tell us about the spirits in prison? (3:20)

8. When God was waiting patiently in the days of Noah, what was He waiting for? (3:20)

9. In what sense were Noah and his family “saved through water”? (3:20)

Allen Black observes,

It may be preferable to view “through” in a local sense: Noah was saved by passing through the waters of the flood into a renewed world. The analogy with Christian baptism would then be that Christians pass through the waters of baptism into a renewed life. (Black, 105)

10. What does the water through which Noah and his family were saved symbolize for us? (3:21)

11. How is our baptism related to our salvation? (3:21)

Cottrell notes,

The first thing Peter says is that *baptism saves*. This succinct statement sums up the significance of all other passages in the NT that teach about the meaning of baptism. Next to Mark 16:16, this is the most explicit Biblical statement of the relation between baptism and salvation as such. (Cottrell, 236)

12. How is baptism an “appeal” (NASB) for a good conscience? (3:21)

Wayne Grudem writes,

To be baptized rightly is to make such an appeal to God: “Please, God, as I enter this baptism which will cleanse my body outwardly, I am asking you to cleanse my heart inwardly, forgive

my sins, make me right before you.” In this way, baptism is an appropriate symbol for the beginning of the Christian life. Once we understand baptism in this way, we can appreciate why “Repent, and be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38) was an evangelistic command in the early church. (Grudem, 171-172)

13. How is baptism connected to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? (3:21)

Grudem notes,

Baptism, when Peter wrote, was by immersion (going completely under the water – note how incongruous the mention of “removal of dirt from the body” would be if Peter thought that only a few drops of water were sprinkled on the head), then going down into the waters of baptism was a vivid symbol of going down into the grave in death. (Cf. “we were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,” Rom. 6:4.) (Grudem, 170-171)

14. Where did Christ go after His resurrection? (3:22)

15. Who is in submission to Jesus? (3:22)

16. What is your response when you think about the way Jesus died for your sins?

17. What is your response when you consider the fact that Jesus died to bring you to God?

18. Why do you think God chose to make baptism a part of becoming a Christian?

19. If you were baptized, what does your baptism mean to you? If you haven't been baptized, why not?

20. How will you thank God for the salvation you have in Christ?

#### **Sources cited:**

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. College Press, 1998.

Cottrell, Jack. *Studies in First Peter*. Christian Restoration Association, 2017.

Grudem, Wayne. *1 Peter*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.