

Understanding Baptism

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Baptism / Baptism / 1 Peter 3:18–21; Matthew 28:19–20

Baptism is for identity and commitment, no longer a symbol of the spiritual cleansing from sin that would come, but rather a symbolic testimony of the spiritual cleansing that has come and a testimony of commitment to the task that God has called us to.

Notes

01/14 Various passages "Understanding Baptism," Subtitle: Witnessing for Jesus
Scripture: 1 Pet. 3:18-21 (just the leader read)

What is baptism, why is it important, and what is the right way to do it?

Introduction: There are three words used in the New Testament that have their root in the word we know as "Baptism," *baptizo*, *baptismos* and *baptisma*:

- ++The first "***baptizo***" simply means to baptize, the act of.
- ++The word "***baptismos***" emphasizes a washing or purification affected by means of water.
- ++The last "***baptisma***" means an overwhelming immersion in which one is completely overtaken by the water they are dipped in.

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The idea behind the understanding of "*baptismos*" takes us back to the OT and the ceremonial washing involved in the requirements of the Law.

OT Ceremonial Washing

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1. ++To set them apart for God's purpose, to consecrate them (Exod. 40:12-16)
 - ++Cleansing for the task
 - ++Dedication for life ("throughout their generations")
2. ++To prepare them for the atonement sacrifice, the passing over (Lev. 16:1-5)
 - ++A preparation for the "holy garments"
 - ++To prepare for the atonement sacrifice
3. ++To be practiced for the time being (Heb. 9:1-10)
 - ++Until a "reformation" that would free them from it (Heb. 9:10)

Hebrews 10:11-14 NASB95

¹¹ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹² but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, ¹³ waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

NT Regeneration

NT Regeneration

1. ++Cleansed once and for all time (Heb. 9:11-14)
2. ++Set apart, buried and raised, made alive, forgiven, manifestation of what was shadowed (OT; Col. 2:11-17)
3. ++Received new life (Rom. 6:3-4)

4. ++Placed into a new family ("body of Christ," 1 Cor. 12:13)

In the OT, the following of the Law included outward evidences of identity as a child of God and the nation of Israel. The NT also has an outward evidence of identity as a child of God and the body of Christ.

NT Identification

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1. ++Christ was baptized as outward evidence of being set apart for God's purpose (Matt. 3:13-17)
2. ++Those who believed in Christ were baptized (Acts 8:12-13; 37; 10:45-48; 16:14-15; 31-33; 18:8; 19:4-5)
3. ++Not for salvation but to testify of a clear conscience and commitment to God (Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet.3:18-21)

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We were dead, 1 Cor. 15 and Rom. 6 tells us, and now we have been made alive and walk as those who are alive unto Christ.