

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Baptism and the Blood

This week's article and for the next several weeks, we will be teaching about water baptism and if it brings salvation. We suggest that if you miss any of these articles, you go to: www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org and look under "Archived Articles." The question of water baptism has been taught in error by "pastors" and students of theology. There are many honest and sincere people who are confused concerning the purpose of baptism. Remember that the apostle Paul wrote, "No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds" (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

Each person reading these articles should question the leaders of their local church as to "what is the purpose of water baptism?" You are likely to get a number of answers which include the more common reason such as "It is a symbol to others that one has professed a belief in Jesus Christ and are now disciples of Him." If you ask these leaders if one is saved before baptism they will teach and assure you that you are. Anything taught by men outside of the apostle's doctrine on this subject is false doctrine.

The blood of Jesus saves us from our sins: Jesus said, "for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28). What does baptism have to do with the blood?

Peter preached, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Notice that the expression "for the forgiveness of sins" is the same as in Matthew 26:28. Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. How can both of these scriptures be true?

The answer is in Romans 6:3-4: "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized INTO Christ have been baptized INTO His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism INTO death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Here the assurance is given that we are baptized in the likeness of His death and will be in the likeness of His resurrection.

What saves us? The blood of Jesus. How do we come into contact with that saving blood? Through baptism INTO Christ. "For all of you who were baptized INTO Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27). There is no scripture that suggests that if we just believe, or repent, or confess our sins alone that we are IN Christ and come into contact with His saving blood, only through water baptism can we be IN Christ. Paul wrote, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). If a false teacher is working with Satan and is claiming that baptism does not save, there is no other way for a person to come INTO contact with His blood.

Is baptism a work of our own merit? No. We simply must submit to the will of God. Now, how can anyone deny the necessity of baptism? (1 Peter 3:21)

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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