

THE DYNAMICS OF BAPTISM IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

Romans 6:1-14

- 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
- 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
- 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
- 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.
- 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,
- 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.
- 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.
- 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,
- 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.
- 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
- 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.
- 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

One mother tells about taking her four-year-old daughter to a baptismal service at her church. Later that night, her daughter took all of her dolls into the bathtub with her and held her own "baptism."

As she dunked each doll under the water, she repeated, "Now I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and hold your nose."

The young son of a Baptist minister was in church one morning when he saw for the first time baptism by immersion. He was greatly interested in it, and the next morning proceeded to baptize... you guessed it... his three cats in the bathtub.

The youngest kitten bore it very well, and so did the younger cat, but the old family tom cat rebelled.

The old feline struggled with the boy, clawed and tore his skin, and finally got away. With considerable effort the boy caught the old tom again and proceeded with the "ceremony."

But the cat acted worse than ever, clawing and spitting, and scratching the boy's face.

Finally, after barely getting the cat splattered with water, he dropped him on the floor in disgust and said:

"Fine, be a Methodist if you want to!"

Apart from the stories and funny experiences, baptism has a very serious side. We believe water baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality. In other words, it is a picture, a symbol, an evidence of what has already taken place in our spiritual lives. For example, if you are married, then most likely you have a wedding ring on your finger. But is it the ring that makes you married? No, the ring is a symbol of the commitment that makes them married. One day I stood in front of a pastor and a whole lot of people in the chapel at Peterson Air Force Base and made a commitment before God to be married to Kathy for the rest of my life. That commitment, and the signing of those documents that day, is what makes me married. The ring is an outward symbol of that inner commitment in marriage.

Baptism is an outward picture of an inward spiritual reality in the life of someone who is born again. Like the wedding ring, baptism draws a mark on the ground between the past and the future. Like the wedding ring, it says, "From this day forward, I stand with God."

I. BAPTISM PICTURES WHAT CHRIST DOES FOR US AND IN US (VS. 3-4).

A. The word "Baptize" indicates us the mode.

1. "baptizo" means, "to immerse, to submerge."

B. The practice shown in the New Testament demonstrates the mode.

1. Jesus was baptized this way (Matthew 3:13-17)

2. Jesus Commanded this type of baptism for those who believe (Matt. 28:18-20).

3. Peter Commanded it at Pentecost (Acts 2:38).

4. Every time believers were baptized in the book of Acts, this is how it was done (Acts 2:41; 8:12,38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:33).

C. The Picture presented in the act of baptism mandates the mode.

1. It pictures death burial and resurrection.

II. BAPTISM IDENTIFIES US OPENLY WITH CHRIST (VS. 3, 5)

A. It is a public identification with the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross (v.3).

1. When we are baptized, we are openly expressing our faith in the substitutionary death that Jesus died for us on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21).

B. We are identified as becoming united with Jesus (v.5)

1. Notice Paul's words, "Baptized into Christ Jesus". This denotes the fact that we are in union with Christ.

2. At salvation we were immersed, baptized into Christ Jesus. Water baptism is a public statement of that inward reality.

ILLUSTRATION: Dr. M.R. DeHaan put it this way: In the early days of the church. . . , baptism was a declaration that the believer was definitely identifying himself with that group of people who were called Christians and were despised and hated. To be a Christian meant something. To identify yourself with those who

were called Christians meant persecution, maybe death; it meant being ostracized from your family, shunned by friends. And the one act which was the final declaration of this identification was BAPTISM. As long as a man gathered with Christians, he was tolerated, but when once he submitted to baptism, he declared to all the world, I BELONG TO THIS DESPISED GROUP, and immediately he was persecuted, hated, and despised. In baptism, therefore, the believer entered into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. A person might be a believer and keep it strictly a secret and thus avoid unpleasantness and suffering, but once he submitted to public baptism he had burned his bridges behind him. . .” (Pamphlet, Water Baptism, p. 27).

III. BAPTISM SHOWS THE IMPACT OF OUR SALVATION EXPERIENCE (V. 4, 6-8).

A. Baptism shows the Gospel message that Jesus died for our sins and rose again for our justification. (v. 4)

1. Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).

2. He arose so that we can be justified

(Romans 4:25) “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

B. Baptism shows that the believer has died to the old life of sin and has been raised to walk in a different life.(vss.6-7).

1. The believer is a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

2. The key to living the Christian life is to let Jesus live through you (Gal. 2:20).

C. Baptism shows that the believer will one day live with Christ (v.8).

1. When we are saved, we are guaranteed a home in heaven.

IV. BAPTISM DEMONSTRATES THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST’S SACRIFICE (VSS. 9-10).

A. The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is eternally victorious over death and the grave (v. 9).

1. Jesus defeated death and the grave forever. (Re 1:18) “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

(Heb 2:14) “ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”

B. Jesus’ one death was eternally sufficient for our sins (v.10).

1. Some believe that Jesus must be ceremonially slain repeatedly, the scriptures say that he died once for all. His death paid the penalty for sin in full.(Heb 10:12-14) “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

V. BAPTISM IS A CALL TO COMMITMENT FOR THE BELIEVER (VSS. 11-14).

A. It is a call to commitment for us to forsake the ways of the world (v. 11a, 12-13a).

1. You must commit to see yourself as “dead” to sin .

(Ga 2:20) “ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

2. The choice must be made not to let sin have dominion over you.

a. Living like the rest of the world should be an unconscionable choice.

(Ro 6:2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

William P. Barker tells of a machinist at Ford Motor Company in Detroit who became a Christian. He responded to the invitation and was baptized. As the Holy Spirit began renewing this man he became convicted of his need to make restitution for some parts and tools he had stolen from the company prior to becoming a Christian. So the next morning he brought all the tools and parts back to his employer. He explained how he had just been baptized and asked for his foreman's forgiveness.

This was such an amazing turn of events that Mr. Ford, who was visiting a plant in Europe at the time, was cabled with the details of the matter and asked his response. Mr. Ford immediately returned a cable with his decision: “Dam up the Detroit River, and baptize the entire city.”

B. It is a call to commitment to completely live for Christ (vss. 11b, 13b-14).

1. You must commit to live for Jesus. (Col 3:5-10)

2. You must commit to surrender your members to serve Christ.(Rom. 12:1-2)

(1 Pe 2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness

STORY

Paul Harvey wrote in Guidepost Magazine about his own baptism. He said that even though he had received almost every reward for his broadcasting ability that he still felt empty inside.

One summer, however, he & his wife were vacationing in a place called Cave Creek, AZ. Sunday morning came & they decided to go to church. So they went to this little church, & there were only 12 other people present.

He believed in Jesus, but he had never gone forward in a church service. One night he had prayed in his hotel room & asked Jesus to come into his heart, but he felt that there was still something that was missing."

He said that the preacher got up & announced that his sermon was going to be about baptism. Paul Harvey said, "I yawned. But as he started talking about it I found myself interested. He talked about the symbolism behind it, & how it symbolized the complete surrender of one's life to

Jesus Christ, & how there was nothing really magic in the water. But there was this cleansing inside that took place when you yielded yourself to Jesus."

He went on to say, "Finally, when he came to the end of his sermon he said, 'If any of you have not been baptized in this way, I invite you to come forward & join me here at the pulpit.'"

Paul Harvey said, "To my surprise, I found myself going forward. The preacher had said there was nothing magic in the water. Yet as I descended into the depths & rose again I knew something life changing had happened - a cleansing inside out. No longer did there seem to be two uncertain contradictory Paul Harvey's, just one immensely happy one. I felt the fulfilling surge of the Holy Spirit in my life."

Paul Harvey went on, "The change this simple act made in my life is so immense as to be indescribable. Since totally yielding to Him in baptism, my heart can't stop singing. Also, perhaps because baptism is such a public act & because one's dignity gets as drenched as one's body, I discovered a new unself-consciousness in talking about my beliefs."

He closed with these words, "The other evening when on a speaking trip I was flying over west Texas & looking at the beautiful sunset. My heart swelled with joy in my new surrender & I thought, 'How wonderful, we have all this & heaven, too.'"

Conclusion: Do you have all this & heaven, too? If today turned out to be your last day of life on this earth & you stood before the judgment throne of God, are you sure that you are saved?

Baptism is a beautiful picture. It is a witness. It is Powerful. Today we have seen a little of what baptism really means. Are you a Christian? Have you followed the Lord in this beautiful ordinance? If not, why not come and request baptism? Take your stand openly with Jesus in the waters of Believer's Baptism.

Christian, are you living what you professed at the time of your baptism? Why not commit to living in the newness of life that you have received in Christ?