

**DOES BAPTISM SAVE US?**  
**1 PETER 3:20-22 / 10-23-19 / WED**

**I. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?**

- A. Peter says the flood waters are a “type” or “picture” of baptism—v.21 “and **this water symbolizes baptism...**”
1. Peter’s point is that the waters of the flood convey the same message as the water used in baptism.
  2. The flood water’s represent God’s judgment on the wicked people in Noah’s day.
  3. Likewise, the water of baptism represents God’s judgment not on us for sin but on His Son who died in our place—Romans 3:23.
  4. When you were baptized you demonstrated that Christ, as your representative, died the death that the law requires for sin—Eph. 1:7 and Heb. 9:22.
  5. Exiting the water symbolizes the new life we receive through Christ’s resurrection—Romans 6:3-4.
- B. How does Noah’s ark symbolize baptism?
1. God delivered Noah and his family from the flood—v.20 “**In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water...**”
  2. Similarly, baptism is a picture of the ark and how God delivered us from “spiritual death”.
  3. Both the people on the ark and the people who are saved are delivered from God’s wrath.

**II. CAN BAPTISM SAVE US?—V21b “...baptism that now saves you also”.**

- A. There are some passages that those who believe in “regenerational baptism” point to in support—Acts 2:38; 22:16 and now 1 Peter 3:21.
- B. There are, however, verses in opposition to regenerational baptism—Romans 3:22; Gal. 3:14 and John 3:16.
- C. There are examples of people in the N.T. who were saved and received the Holy Spirit “before” they were baptized—Acts 10:44-48; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 3:24.

- D. It's true, though, that in the N.T. most people were baptized at the time they confessed faith in Jesus. John the Baptist's ministry is an example.
1. Peter, however, makes it clear that baptism does not save us—v. 21 **“not the removal of dirt from the body”**.
  2. Peter says v. 21 **“but the pledge of a clean conscience toward God”** that saves us.
  3. So in the N.T. and also today, baptism is connected with belief and is not the means of salvation.

### III. **SO WHAT ARE WE DOING WHEN WE'RE BAPTIZED?—V.21 “the pledge of a clean conscience toward God”**

- A. Peter says we are making a pledge toward God.
1. A pledge is a confession similar to our pledge of allegiance to our flag. The flag, like baptism, “isn't the focus, but the pledge is.
  2. A pledge is also similar to saying **“I Do”** when we are pledging our love to another person.
  3. A pledge, then, is our confession that we are receiving Jesus as our Savior.
  4. Another word for pledge is **“appeal”** which is a request or even prayer for God to give us a clear conscience by forgiving and saving us.
- B. What is the basis for making this appeal for a clear conscience before God?
1. Baptism isn't the basis because it only washes the outside of our body—v. 21 **“not the removal of dirt from the body”**.
  2. Our appeal for a clear conscience is based on Jesus' resurrection —v. 21 **“It (THE PLEDGE) saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”**.
  3. The apostle Paul explains this in Ephesians 1:18-21.
  4. In verse 22 Peter echoes Paul's testimony in Eph. 1:20b-21.