

WITHOUT BAPTISM

Text: Luke 7:30

INTRO: I credit Kevin Maxey, a gospel preacher in Germany, for the basic approach I will take in this sermon.

Without air, we cannot breathe. Without muscles, we cannot move. Without blood, we cannot live. Just as there are many things essential to physical life, there are also several things that are essential to spiritual life. Without God's grace, we cannot be saved, Eph. 2:8. Without Christ's blood, we cannot be redeemed, Eph. 1:7. Without faith we cannot please God, Heb. 11:6.

For the next few minutes, I hope you will consider what the NT teaches about the importance of baptism in God's plan of salvation.

I. WITHOUT BAPTISM, YOU CANNOT PUT ON CHRIST.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:26-27).

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand & foot, take him away, & cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (Matt. 22:11-14).

II. WITHOUT BAPTISM YOU CANNOT ENTER THE CHURCH, WHICH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST/.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:13).

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (Eph. 2:14-16).

III. WITHOUT BAPTISM, YOU CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

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. (Rom. 6:4).

IV. WITHOUT BAPTISM, YOU CANNOT WASH AWAY YOUR SINS.

And now why are you waiting? Arise & be baptized, & wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (Acts 22:16).

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5).

V. WITHOUT BAPTISM YOU CANNOT HAVE REMISSION (FORGIVENESS) OF SINS.

- A. Jesus died so that we could have remission of sins.
For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matt. 26:28).
- B. Jesus commissioned His apostles to preach remission of sins in His name.

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, & thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the 3rd day, & that repentance & remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47).

C. On Pentecost, they began to preach that message. Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; & you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

VI. WITHOUT BAPTISM, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes & is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16).

When once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, 8 souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:20-21).

VII. IF YOU REJECT BAPTISM, YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WILL OF GOD.

But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. (Luke 7:30).

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, & done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matt. 7:21-23)

And having been perfected, [Christ] became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (Heb. 5:9).

The Lord Jesus [will be] revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thess. 1:7-8).

CONCLUSION: Without baptism, you clearly cannot please and/or properly serve God. If you are of accountable mind, there is no reason or acceptable excuse why you should not be baptized NOW, in obedience to the gospel of Christ. There is every reason to submit. There is no reason to refuse.

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