

Baptism as Rescue

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.^{iv}

In it [Noah's Ark] only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, . . . (1 Peter 3:20–21)



⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5)

Baptism as New Birth

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.^v

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying” (Titus 3:5–8).

⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5



Baptism as Death and Resurrection

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.^{vi}

¹¹In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, . . . Colossians 2:11–13

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that **all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** ⁴**We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his **death**, we will certainly also be united with him in his **resurrection**. ⁶For we know that **our old self was crucified with him** so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves to sin**— ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Romans 6:1–7



Baptism as Change of Ownership (Freed to be Slaves)

¹¹In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought **from death to life**; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though **you used to be slaves to sin**, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸**You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.** Romans 6:11–18



Legal Procedure of Adoption

⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, **having been justified** by his grace, we might **become heirs** having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5–7



Putting on New Clothes

²⁶You are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have **clothed yourselves with Christ**.
Galatians 3:26–27



Profession of Faith

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
(Acts 2:27–39)



What about infant baptism?

Not a magic trick; not once saved, always saved.

Disciple people: going, baptizing, teaching

On-going discipleship means we never stop learning, we never stop needing the Means of Grace

Is baptism necessary?