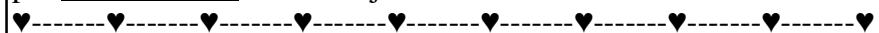


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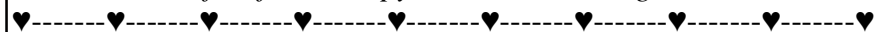
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GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Conversion accounts with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34.

♥ We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9) ♥



Who will be saved? Answer: Matt. 7:21



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

c/o Perry Sexton 231 Rainbow Dr. #13140 Livingston, TX 77399

Email: jpsexton@peoplepc.com

Website: www.mission-usa.org

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Where God Put Water (part 1)

by Perry Sexton

Many sincere and honest hearted people have been taught that water baptism is not essential to one's salvation. I would ask you to please consider this short article and study the points very closely. From the New Testament it is most definite that God did make water baptism, which is for the remission of sins, essential to our salvation. It is not that there is power in the water, but there is power in God's Word. It is not that baptism is the Savior, but that God chose baptism to be the very point wherein man is saved. It is the new birth. It is a matter of faith! Do we believe and trust God or not?

God has the power and the right to choose what man must do in order for God to save man. God could have chosen a different means of salvation, but what He has chosen is clearly seen in His Word and no man can change that. However, men can and do reject it and reject their own salvation. Please have the heart to accept God's Word and His salvation on His terms. It is the only way!

When God speaks man should be very careful to listen. God has spoken concerning our salvation: what we must do. When God places conditions upon some promise, we had better understand those conditions and HEED those conditions. In this lesson we want to learn from the Old Testament first and then from the New Testament concerning our salvation. What greater subject is there?

Since so many people have been deceived by the false teachers to reject God's teachings on water baptism "for the remission of sins," we want to look at: "**Where God Put Water**" and learn from those great lessons. The Old Testament is preserved for us in order that we may learn from these great lessons (Rom. 15:4).

Noah: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb 11:7). You may read more of this in Genesis 6ff. Consider what Peter wrote by inspiration of God: "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1 Peter 3:20). As it is certain that Noah had those who mocked him as he was building the ark, so it is today that many who do not believe God concerning baptism do mock (cp. 2 Peter 3:3). They reject the truth which God gave us through Peter by inspiration. Some even go so far as to say Noah was not saved by water. Choose you whom you will believe, but I will believe God. I hope you will also. God was the One who saved Noah and God says He did it by water (1 Peter 3:20). We have God's Word on the matter! God has spoken clearly! That should settle it and does for those who truly believe God.

People with honest hearts (Luke 8:15) and who reason correctly know that the water bore up the ark wherein Noah and the others were saved. This separated Noah and the others in the ark from those drowned in the water. In a type of our salvation, the water washed away the sins of the world and the same water saved Noah from that ungodly world. God used water to purify the world. Please note: "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" (2 Peter 2:5). Was Noah saved by water or not (1 Peter 3:20)? Do you have enough faith to believe God over the false teachers?

Many reject the truth concerning Noah being saved by water in order to get around the conclusion that God is showing us: "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 3:21). Could God have made this any plainer? When man, through faith obeys God in baptism "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16), God saves that person from their sins (ibid). When those on Pentecost heard and believed the Word of God it is said: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). These were added to the church, the ark of safety. The same thing still happens today when one through faith is baptized into Christ (cp. Rom. 6:3).

Was Noah saved by water? What does God say about it? Should we believe God or man? Did Noah have to obey God in order to be saved from that destruction?

Israel: When Israel was being freed from Egyptian bondage, which typifies sin, God used water to save them from the Egyptians. Please read Exodus 14, but here are some important excerpts: "And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left" (Exod. 14:22). "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned" (Heb 11:29). This was their baptism: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; {2} And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" (1 Cor. 10:1,2).

What was the result of them obeying God and passing through the sea (Exod. 14:15)? God tells us: "Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore" (Exod. 14:30). Where they saved from Egyptian bondage before they were "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"? Water stood between them and their freedom from slavery (a type of sin). ♥