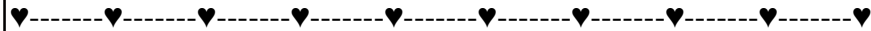


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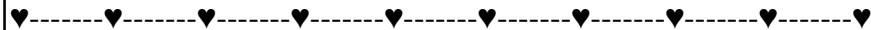
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GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

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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Volume V

January 2012

Number 5

Where God Put Water (part 3)

by Perry Sexton

As we continue this series let us look at one example in the New Testament and one more in the Old Testament, then we will get into the actual conversions of this Age.

Blind man: “And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth. ... ⁶When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, ⁷And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing” (John 9:1-7). Again we see that water is involved. Was the blind man’s sight healed before washing in water? Do you believe the water could have been bypassed by this man?

Now just one more Old Testament example: I put this example here because it connects so well to the New Testament church. It is that of the priests entering into the tabernacle which was a type of the church that was to come. Here again we see that God made water an essential part: “And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal. ³¹And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat: ³²When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses” (Exod. 40:30,32). The command: “When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD:” (Exod. 30:20). Note what God had commanded: “Wash with water, that they die not.”

The following New Testament conversions are of those washing away their sins in water baptism that they die not the eternal death in hell! “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). The “gift” of salvation is only for those who obey the Lord (Heb. 5:9). The tabernacle of old was a shadow of the church to come (Heb. 8:2ff). They had to wash in water in the laver before entering into the tabernacle. Today, as all New Testament conversions show, all people must be baptized in water “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38,47). Note this figurative reference to baptism: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:22).

Saul of Tarsus: Read Acts 9:1-18. “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:6). Saul did so: “And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink” (Acts 9:9). While there the Scriptures inform us that he was praying (Acts 9:11). Fasting and praying! But did this save Saul? No, for the preacher of God said “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Saul was baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 9:18). He was saved at that point (cp. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Peter wrote: “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). It all fits perfectly.

Those on Pentecost: “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37,38)? Note where God put water: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (v.38). “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 cp. v.47).

Samaritans: Again we see water in these conversions: “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was

baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done” (Acts 8:12,13).

Eunuch: “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:35-38).

Cornelius had heard “... words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14). What were those words? “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...” (Acts 10:47,48). Again, “in the name of the Lord,” same baptism as in Acts 2:38.

Lydia and the Jailer: Both were baptized with the same water baptism (Acts 16:15,33).

As seen by statements of fact, commands and examples, all people on this side of the cross must be baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved: See Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). The water is clearly referring to baptism. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3,4). “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17,18 cp. v.3).

What will **YOU** do with the saving words of Jesus (John 6:63,68)? Will you stumble (1 Cor. 1:18ff)? Will you reject the salvation offered by Jesus (cp. Luke 7:30; John 12:48; Acts 13:46).

Or will **YOU** “gladly receive[d] his word” and be baptized (Acts 2:41)? ♥

See Conversion Chart 2011, 3 on Website under WOL or send for it. Please let us know of your questions or concerns.