

The Power in Baptism

1 Pet. 3:18-22

Introduction:

- A. We hear much about the power in prayer, what about the power in baptism?
- B. If there is no power in baptism then:
 - 1. Why were 3,000 baptized in one day?
 - 2. Why was a family baptized in the wee hours of the morning?
 - 3. Why have many broken ice in order to baptize?
- C. Let us notice some facts about the power in baptism:

Discussion:

I. The Power of Baptism Is Wonderful.

- A. It saves (1 Pet. 3:21; Matt. 16:16).
- B. It washes away sins (Acts 22:16; 2:38).

II. The Power of Baptism Is Not in Itself.

- A. It not in the water (Cf. Naaman, Blind man)
- B. It is not in the action.
- C. It is in the authority of the raised Christ (vv. 21-22)
 - 1. He has all authority (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Baptism reenacts his death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-4).

III. The Power of Baptism Is Not in Itself Alone.

- A. It is a part of a package.
 - 1. Faith (Mk. 16:16).
 - 2. Repentance (Acts 2:38).
 - 3. Confession (Acts 8:37).
- B. It changes nothing for the unbeliever or impenitent.

IV. The Power of Baptism Is Limited.

- A. It cannot remove future sins (Acts 8:13, 22; 1 John 1:7-9).
- B. It cannot guarantee eternal salvation (Rev. 2:10).
- C. It cannot re-write history (cf. Saul and Paul).
- D. It cannot remove all the damage of sin.
 - 1. Cf. David's pardon (2 Sam. 12:7-14).
 - 2. Damage to others
 - 3. Damage to self.
 - a. Physical damage.
 - b. Reputation.
 - 4. Damage to relationships
 - a. Friendships (cf. Paul and Barnabas)
 - b. Marriages
 - 5. Removes condemnation (Rom. 8:1), but not consequences (cf. baptized poisoner)
- E. It cannot sanctify a sinful relationship
 - 1. Cf. Unscriptural marriages, polygamy, Shacking up.
 - 2. Would it have made Herod's marriage lawful? (Cf. Matt. 14:4; Mark 1:4)

Conclusion:

- A. Have you been baptized?
- B. Have you fallen since being baptized?