

What Baptism Does *Not* Do?

1 Pet. 3:21

Introduction:

- A. Peter tells us something baptism does and does not do.
 - 1. Unlike O.T. ceremonial washings — it affects conscience (cf. Heb. 9:9,10,14)
 - 2. It saves the soul by the power of the resurrection of Christ.
- B. Baptism does much for a penitent believers (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Gal. 3:26, 27)
- C. Baptism will not do everything — many seem to think so.

Discussion:

I. It Does Not Change the Heart.

- A. First, there must be a change of the heart — faith and repentance.
 - 1. Of the intellect — Thoughts (Gen. 6:5) and beliefs (Rom. 10:10)
 - 2. Of the emotions — Affections (Matt. 22:37) and desires (Rom. 10:1)
 - 3. Of the will — Intentions (Heb. 4:12) and purposes (2 Cor. 9:7)
- B. Then, there must baptism from the heart (cf. Rom. 6:17; 3,4)

II. It Does Not Remove Temptation.

- A. Jesus was tempted immediately after baptism (Matt. 3, 4)
- B. Christians must deal with temptation. (Jas. 1:12).
 - 1. Promised divine help (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - 2. Some yield to it (Demas, Peter, Judas, Simon)

III. It Does Not Make One Sinless.

- A. Peter was not made sinless even by Holy Spirit baptism (Gal. 2:11).
- B. No Christian can claim sinless perfection. (1 John 1:8-2:2).

IV. It Does Not Guarantee Eternal Salvation.

- A. May not believe it does, but act like it does (Ill. Alligator)
- B. Eternal life to all who obey the Lord (Heb. 5:8-9).
 - 1. Baptism does not “complete our obedience.”
 - 2. Life of continual obedience. (Phil. 2:12)
 - a. Steadfastly worship and serve (Heb 10:25; Acts 2:42).
 - b. Worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:24)
 - c. Seeking heavenly things (Col. 2:12; 3:1; Matt. 6:33).
 - d. Faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion:

- A. Baptism is essential, but will not take you to heaven alone.
- B. Obey the Lord in baptism, then be raised to walk in a new life.