

SAVED!

A STUDY OF NEW
TESTAMENT CONVERSIONS
Week 10

We now see the Biblical foundation
of Center Christian Church's belief in
Baptism:

We believe that salvation is received by God's grace through faith in Christ, repenting sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit; but that none of these is sufficient in and of itself for the assurance of salvation.

Misunderstood Scriptures

The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him.

“Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?

We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “*Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.*”

Was the thief on the Cross Baptized?

We don't know

Was he Saved?

Yes

Does this demonstrate that baptism is not part of the salvation process?

No, but we need to a close look at the passage to understand it

To understand this passage we must acknowledge the fact that Jesus had the power to forgive sins while on the earth.

Matthew 9: 4-6

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

We must also consider that the New Covenant had not yet been established yet as the sacrificial death of Christ had not yet occurred so at this time mankind was still under the requirements of the Old Testament Law for the forgiveness of sin which did not include baptism. While Christ was on the earth He had all authority to forgive sins.

All you need to do is believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

James 2: 18-20

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless

Matthew 7: 21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but only the one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Question?

If you truly believe in someone, how will your actions demonstrate that you believe in them?

You will do what they are telling you, recommending you or asking you to do.

John 14:15

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

Mark 16: 15-16

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 28: 19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Baptism alone saves you

1 Peter 3: 20-21

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to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also

Acts 2:38

Peter 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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Salvation is a process and is received by God's grace through faith in Christ, repenting sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit; but none of these is sufficient in and of itself for the assurance of salvation.

Final Difficult Question:

Can someone be saved on their deathbed without baptism?

No man knows the answer. This question relies on God's mercy shown to a dying sinner. If someone is on their deathbed by all means we need to witness to them and pray with them to repent and make Jesus their Lord and Savior and have them beg for God's mercy, but we must not wait until our dying breath as the final verdict is unknown because the big question is- *as someone is dying are they expressing worldly sorrow or Godly sorrow?* Remember-worldly sorrow leads to death.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*



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