

Elementary Children's Church

Lesson 10

Baptism, what does it mean? When should I be baptized, and how?

1. Baptism is the public expression to God and fellow believers that one has accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Its meaning is so amazing, yet so simple. **Colossians 2:12**: "**Buried** with **him** in **baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with [**him**] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised **him** from the dead." When we accept Christ, He gives us His eternal life, so in baptism we die with Him as we are immersed in water, yet nevertheless we live, because Christ lives now in us. And through faith in Christ we are raised together with Him as we are symbolically taken up out of the water (the grave). **Romans 6:3-4**: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore 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." Notice that it is in the name of Jesus we are baptized. So many confuse the baptism in Matthew 28:19 (the baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost) which is the baptism for the millennium (not this time). Teachers note: This may be a bit much for the children to grasp, but so important scripturally for mature saints.

2. Being baptized does not save you. If it was a requirement, the thief on the cross would never have entered heaven for he had no time for baptism since he had just accepted Christ right before death.

3. *One must be saved before they are baptized.* **Acts 8:36-38**: "*And 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 (stop me from being) baptized? And 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. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*" This confirms the necessity of salvation before baptism. This then explains why infant baptism is of no effect for Salvation, and only disillusioned people into thinking that somehow infant baptism saved them. (What a tragedy!)