

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 22:8-16**.
- B. Many religious people believe that to be saved one must have faith, repent of their sins, and confess the name of X. But not all agree on whether or not baptism is essential to salvation.
- C. Paul said in Eph. 4:5, that there is "one baptism." What he meant there is that to accept all the other "ones" that are essential, we must believe in one baptism that is essential.
- D. Tonight's companion lesson will deal w/some of the false arguments that people have used in trying to discredit the essentiality of baptism for salvation.

I. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

- A. Lest anyone think that salvation is not on that basis of grace--the Bible does teach that! Grace is God's part (in X), and faith is our response to that grace (Eph. 2:8,9).
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
- B. But part of our "response of faith" is being baptized (Col. 2:12).
having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- C. Which in turn brings up an interesting point--what does the Bible mean when it says, "raised up with Him" (Col. 2:12)?
- D. Baptism is our spiritual sharing in the death burial and resurrection of X. To understand the essentiality of baptism for salvation, is to first understand what baptism is all about. Notice the following:
 1. Baptism is a like sharing **in the death of X** (Rom. 6:3,6,7).
 2. Baptism is a like sharing **in the burial of X** (Rom. 6:4a).
 3. Baptism is a like sharing **in the resurrection of X** (Rom. 6:4b,8,9).
- E. Repentance, confession, and baptism are all responses of faith.

II. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

- A. Five reasons that baptism is essential to salvation:
 1. Baptism is **commanded by X and the apostles** (Jn. 3:3,5; Mt. 28:19,20; Mk. 16:15,16; Ac. 10:47,48; 19:3-5; 8:12).
(Jn 3:3,5) Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." [5] Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
(Mt 28:19,20) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
(Mk 16:15,16) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
(Ac 10:47,48) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ....
(Ac 19:3-5) And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(Ac 8:12) But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
 2. Baptism is **found in the examples of conversion in the book of Acts**.
See Acts 2:38,41; 8:5-13; 8:35-39; 9:17,18; 10:34-38; 16:13; 16:32.

3. Baptism is puts one into X and His church (Gal. 3:27; 1Cor. 12:13).
(Gal 3:27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
(1Cor 12:13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,...
 4. Baptism is gives the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22; Rom. 6:3; Ac. 2:38; 22:16).
(Heb 9:22) ...and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
(Rom 6:3) ...all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
(Ac 2:38) And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."
(Ac 22:16) 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins,..."
 5. Baptism is gives the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac. 19:2-5; Rom. 8:9-11).
(Ac 19:2-5) and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(Rom 8:9-11) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- B. The apostle Peter says that baptism is the very act that now saves us (1Pet. 3:21).
And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Paul agrees that we are saved by grace and washing of baptism (Titus 3:3-5).
For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. **4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- B. We must be obedient to NT doctrine to be saved, and this doctrine includes baptism (Rom. 6:17).
But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
- C. In some ways, baptism boils down to **attitude**. If you have the right attitude, it doesn't make any difference what the Bible says, you are ready to do it.
- D. Baptism is easy to do, and absolutely essential to salvation.
- E. Come back tonight and we shall continue this discussion by discussing some false arguments used to discredit the essentiality of baptism.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.