

Is Baptism Just a “Symbol” of Salvation?



Who said “For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.”

Bonus: to whom were these words said?

A common denominational declaration regarding the purpose of baptism is this: “Baptism is a symbol of salvation. It is an outward sign of an inward grace.” Frequently 1 Peter 3:21 will be employed in an attempt to prove this statement. Baptist writer B. H. Carroll, in his discussion of 1 Peter 3:21, declared that baptism “saves us in a figure, not reality” (218). However, there is absolutely no New Testament support for this allegation. Please consider the following information:

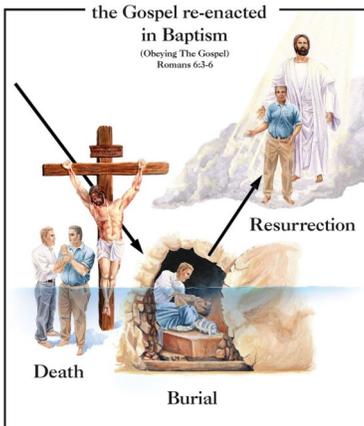
1) The Bible plainly teaches that baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), it is to “wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16), it puts a penitent person “into Christ” (see Romans 6:3-6, Galatians 3:27), etc.

2) In every New Testament passage where baptism and salvation are mentioned together, baptism always comes before salvation (see Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21).

3) The text of 1 Peter 3:21 does not say that baptism *merely* saves figuratively. What it does teach is this... Noah and his family were saved through water. Okay. What does that mean? They were transported by means of water from a world of sin to a cleansed environment (see Genesis 7 and 8). Our salvation today is the anti-type (which means a “like-figure” — Greek: *antitupos*) of that experience. The anti-type refers to the reality that the figure represents. By water baptism we are conveyed from the “state of guilt” to the “state of redemption.” That is what happens when a penitent believer is immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins. God saves.

Robert Stein, Baptist scholar, has recently acknowledged: “At times salvation is said to come about through baptism. Here once again we can mention 1 Peter 3:21, where baptism is clearly said to save. The only way that we can separate baptism from salvation in this statement is by attributing to the word ‘baptism’ a meaning different from which it usually bears” (335). Elsewhere Dr. Stein declares that any attempt to “spiritualize the water” of 1 Peter 3:21 “drowns in the flood waters mentioned in verse 20” (330).

Via “8 Mistakes about Baptism” by Wayne Jackson



Is immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins just a “symbol” of salvation? No, it was not so in the past and it never will be in the future.

Have you been baptized for the forgiveness of your sins? Yes or no?

Have you seen the “IDEA BOX” YES? It humbly requests your kind “input”

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM; study of New Testament commands that apply today...

NMCCH: SOUPS! Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken. Please check the expiration date!

Ladies Day: at Howe, 9AM on Saturday (9/28). Speaker Yvonne Butler, “Life is a Masquerade— Time to Unmask.”

Gospel Meeting: October 20-22 with John Cannon... “Pressing On!” (Philippians 3:14)