

Baptism Is More

Baptism is more than just getting wet. Baptism is more than a church tradition. Baptism is more than a good thing to do. Baptism is more than showing the world you are committed to Christ. Think of it like the birth that it is. Baptism is necessary because birth is necessary. One must be born to experience all the joys and benefits of spiritual life. Like physical birth brings one into the world, baptism brings one into Christ: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

Through baptism we are cleansed of the filth of worldliness: "...arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins..." (Acts 22:16). "...that he might sanctify it and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:26). Baptism delivers us out of the kingdom of Satan and into the kingdom of God: "...Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5); "...who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). As you can see, we are born into the kingdom through baptism. In the kingdom, we are delivered from the power of darkness, we are redeemed by the blood of Christ and we have our sins forgiven. If we teach people they can be saved without baptism and they believe that lie, they can never come into the kingdom, be redeemed by the blood or be forgiven. They will be damned (2 Thessalonians 2:12). This is exactly what happened to those lost souls mentioned in Matthew 7:22-23. They had believed strongly in the Lord. Their belief led them to live in a way they thought would please Him. But the Lord says he "never" knew them. They had never come into the kingdom, never been redeemed by the blood and never been forgiven. In short, they had never obeyed God by being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38).