

Baptism Matters

Acts 8:26-40

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Because of the differences in how many Christian groups baptize and because we believe the Bible teaches that baptism is not part of our salvation there might be a tendency to say baptism doesn't really matter. But God's Word teaches just the opposite...Baptism matters! We see this in a very familiar story from the early church.

I. A Confrontation

1. A Witness is needed.
2. The Word must be shared.

Romans 10:¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3. A Willing listener

II. Conditions that Matter

1. Understanding the command

Acts 2:⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Acts 8:¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

2. The manner of baptism: immersion

III. A Celebration-“he went on his way rejoicing”

1. Because he was obedient to Christ

John 15:¹⁰ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

2. Rejoiced in an open confession

- Jesus is my Master
- I am married to Jesus
- 3. An outward sign of an inward change
 - Of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

Romans 6:³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Of our death to the old life and raised to new life

2 Corinthians 5:¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- Of our death to sin and being alive to God

Romans 6:⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² ¶ Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.