

Seeker Study 8 | **Salvation**

Purpose: *"For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves; it is the Gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Christ alone has earned out salvation through His work on the cross. We respond with clarity and certainty to make this gift of grace all the more secure. We connect to His death, burial, and resurrection through the baptism that he has established for our new life. The Bible never refers to this response as a work; instead the Bible refers to baptism as "not performed by human hands," "from above," and "not because of works done by righteousness." (Colossians 2:11, John 3:3-5, Titus 3:5) After preaching about the cross, Peter calls his hearers to repent and be baptised for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). This study helps establish the link between Christ's sacrifice and our forgiveness of sins by means of baptism.*

Scriptures:

Colossians 1:13-14

Q: What is salvation or redemption? *It's the forgiveness of sins by the blood of Jesus.*

Colossians 2:11-14

Q: What state are you in when God makes you alive and forgives all your sins?

Q: How do you go "from dead in sins" to "alive with Christ"? *Baptism is visualized as burial with Christ.*

Q: What happens when you are raised from that burial in baptism?

Q: What is required of you to be raised from this burial to new life? *Remember that this is in no way a "work performed by human hands."*

Acts 2:36-41

Q: When do we receive the forgiveness of sins?

Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, because it is our connection to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Those who accepted this message were baptised and saved. (Note v. 47 parallel)

Romans 6:1-4 *We are baptised into Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Peter directed his hearers to be baptised in response to the cross. (Acts 2:38) We too will be raised to a new life through baptism.*

Romans 10:5-13 *Note the reference to Deut. 30:12-13 and Joel 2:31. Like Paul, all in Rome who were baptised did so to be raised to a new life. Also like Paul, all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Acts 22:16) We profess Jesus to be Lord, meaning we are no longer lord of our own life - a statement of repentance. (See 2nd Timothy 2:9 and Acts 2:21,38)*

Q: Are you ready to make Jesus your Lord?

Acts 22:7-16 *After encountering Jesus, repenting, praying, fasting (see Acts 9:9,11), being healed, and being called by God, Paul still remains in sin until he is baptised. He calls on the name of the Lord at his baptism.*

Q: Have you made Jesus the Lord of your life? Then *“What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised, and wash your sins away!”*

Additional Scriptures: *John 3:3-5, John 13:6-11, Titus 3:3-5, Colossians 2:11-14, Acts 8:26-40, Hebrews 10:22, 1 Peter 3:21, Ephesians 4:4-6, 5:26, Galatians 3:23-27, Mark 16:16*