

Baptism Now Saves You

1 Peter 3:18-22

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¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water.

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1 Peter 3:18-22

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, ²²who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

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1 Peter 3:18-22

➤ Context:

- believers are to continue in good behavior and refrain from fear in suffering because God will render final judgment (3:13-17)
- Christ's suffering was the pathway to exaltation by which He secured our salvation and victory over all hostile powers (3:18-22)

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1. Baptism pictures salvation through judgment by the resurrection of Christ

- the waters of baptism represent the waters of God's judgment
- we are saved through these death-dealing waters by union with Christ in His resurrection

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2. Baptism has no inherent power to save or cleanse from sin

- while baptism pictures cleansing from sin, it is not the outward washing that is saving

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3. Baptism is the appeal to God to cleanse the conscience and forgive sins
 - this request is on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ

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- In the NT, baptism is the decisive, outward way of responding to the gospel

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