

## Explaining False Salvation Teachings

Teaching: Accepting Jesus into your heart

Verse Cited: Romans 10:9

Explained: One confessed Jesus at Lord in the first century at their baptism. The first Christians did not attempt to separate faith and baptism into Christ as separate items. Romans 10:13 talks of “calling on the name of the Lord” which is what being baptized into Christ does (see Acts 22:16).

Teaching: Praying Jesus into your heart

Verse Cited: Revelation 3:20

Explained: This verse, rich in imagery, was written to an existing church, those already in Christ, about their need to repent. The context of this verse has nothing to do with how to enter into Christ and be saved.

Teaching: Infant baptism

Verses Cited: None

Explained: There are no examples of babies or small children being baptized in the New Testament. Babies cannot repent, die to self, or have faith. Hebrews 11:6 teaches that without faith it is impossible to please the Lord. A baptism into Christ that does not include faith on the part of the one being baptized is not valid.

Teaching: We are saved by faith alone without baptism

Verses Cited: John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8

Explained: John 3:16 absolutely demands faith in God’s Son and in his life, but verse 17 more fully explains that we are saved “through” or by entering into his life. Having faith in Jesus means that we have faith that by entering into his life through baptism we will be saved. Colossians 2:12 and Galatians 3:26-27 demonstrate that we are saved by God through our faith at baptism. You cannot remove any of those elements and still have the same result.

Teaching: Baptism does not save anyone

Verse Cited: Ephesians 2:8

Explained: 1 Peter 3:21 demonstrates that we are saved through baptism by entering into the life of Jesus Christ. We are saved through the resurrection of Christ (see Rom. 6:1-10). Entering into the life of Christ is the only way that we are saved and Romans 6:1-10, Galatians 3:26-27, and Colossians 3:1-3 all confirm that we enter into Christ when we are buried and raised with him through baptism. Only by being baptized into Christ are our sins forgiven (Acts 2:38).

Teaching: Baptism is merely an outward sign of inward grace

Verse Cited: None

Explained: Romans 6:2-4 makes clear that we are baptized into Christ in an actual participation in his death, burial, and resurrection life. Nowhere does this passage even hint that this is merely a symbol. 1 Peter 3:21 says that the water of Noah’s Flood

symbolized baptism but nowhere does it say that baptism is a symbol. Peter says that being baptized into Christ is when we are saved.

Teaching: Paul didn't think baptism was important

Verse Cited: 1 Corinthians 1:17

Explained: When read in context we see that Paul was criticizing factions that were being built based on who baptized them. In 1 Corinthians 1:13 Paul confirms that in order to be saved, someone had to die for you and you had to be baptized into them. Paul and the other apostles did not qualify so they should not be creating factions based on following them. Only Christ died for them and they were all baptized into him. That is what was important. Who actually baptized them was of little importance compared to that.

Teaching: The thief on the cross was not baptized

Verses Cited: Luke 23:40-43

Explained: Jesus had not yet died so the thief could not be baptized into his death and resurrection life. While on earth, Jesus had the power to forgive sins (Matt. 9:2-6) so what we have here is an example of someone being saved under the Old Covenant.

Teaching: You can be baptized without understanding that you are dying to self, having your sins forgiven and being baptized into Christ

Verse Cited: None

Explained: Acts 18:24-26 and Acts 19:1-6 demonstrate that symbolic baptisms that do not carry the understanding that one is having their sins forgiven and entering into Christ are not adequate.