Sunday, November 15, 2026 am

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

It is no secret that what we teach concerning God's plan of salvation is different than what much of the world believes. While faith is the foundation of our response to God's grace. It is only genuine if we act on it. And faith only leads to salvation when we obey what we are told to do. There is a reason we describe responding to the plan of salvation as obeying the gospel. And scripture uses that phrase, primarily to describe those who choose to NOT obey the gospel – 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 1 Peter 4:17 – what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel?

Obeying the gospel involves belief, repentance, confession and baptism. But what happens when we are baptized? Today that is what I want us to consider.

I. I am saved

a. We will start with the obvious observation. Baptism is part of God's plan that leads to salvation.
b. Acts 2:38 – it is for "the remission of sins." The word "remission" is the Greek word, ἄφεσις (aphesis). It means pardon or forgiveness. The word is found 17x in the NT and is translated "remission" 9x in the NKJV and "forgiveness" 6x, and "liberty" 2x in Luke 4:18 where is speaks of bringing freedom to those who were captives (of Satan). Ephesians 1:7 notes that in Christ we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins. Peter answered the question, "What shall we do" by saying "Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins." NOTE: Many translations actually say, "for the forgiveness of sins" (LSB, NASB). Baptism is understood to be a part of that.
c. Acts 22:16 – Paul, recounting his conversion noted that Ananias told him to "arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
d. 1 Peter 3:21 – baptism now saves us. A passage where Peter emphasizes the importance of water leading to our salvation. NOTE: IT is not the water itself that saves us, but the obedient act IN water.

II. I put on Christ

a. Galatians 3:27 notes that when are baptized into Christ, we put on Christ. NOTE how this text reminds us that we are baptized "into Christ" reminding us that the act of baptism is what makes us a part of Him. Colossians 2:12 further strengthens this, "*buried with Him in baptism, in which we also were raised with Him*…"
b. This means that we are going to be "wearing Christ". The NASB, LSB say in Galatians 3:27, *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ*.
c. <u>In essence, we are surrendering ourselves to Him</u>. We now belong to Him. Galatians 1:10 Paul noted that he was a bondservant of Christ. Romans 6:17-18 Paul speaks of having obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine and having been set free from sin, we are now slaves of righteousness. Then Romans 6:22 describes us as slaves of God.
d. <u>Wearing Christ means we are seeking be like Him</u>. We are conforming ourselves to who He was while on earth. As we live our lives we want Him to be reflected in our lives – what we say; what we do, the virtues we espouse, who we associate with, etc.
e. <u>To the best of our abilities, we want to imitate Him</u>. That is what being a disciple is about – Matthew 16:24. A disciple is a learner. But he is more than a student. He seeks to emulate the life of his teacher. 1 Corinthians 11:1 – Imitate me as I also imitate Christ. Ephesians 5:1, we are to be imitators of God as dear children. Romans 8:29 speaks of being conformed to the image of Christ (God's Son).

III. I put to death the man of sin

a. As you read through the New Testament Christians are addressed as being changed. In fact, you will NOT become a true Christian if you are not willing to change.

b. Acts 2:38, Peter said "repent and be baptized". There is an order attached to that. BEFORE you are baptized you must understand that repentance is about changing your way of life.
c. Romans 6:1-6 in the act of baptism you put to death the old man of sin and buried him. The context is powerful. Paul is reminding His brethren that in baptism they crucified and buried that old man.
d. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – such were some of you. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes what they used to be like. 1 Peter 4:2-4, we no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh for the lusts of men…
e. You cannot conform to His image while trying to hold on to your former conduct. There are so many conflicts when we try to do that – mental struggles, relationships, confusion, doubts, etc. Galatians 5:16-17 *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*
f. Note Matthew 6:24 – you CANNOT serve 2 masters. Romans 6:12, *Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts*.

IV. I put on the new man

a. The process of becoming a Christian is not complete until you come out of that water, "*raised… (to) walk in newness of life*" (Romans 6:4). It is like a reconstruction project – you first have to clear the land, and THEN you replace what was there with the new structure. The project is not complete until it is in place.
b. Many passages remind us that we have replaced that old man and are different. In addition to some of the passages mentioned in our previous point, consider:
    i. 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*.
    ii. Ephesians 4:22-24 – you put off the old man and put on the new man in true righteousness and holiness.
    iii. Colossians 3:9-10 – the new man is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Christ.
    iv. Romans 12:2 speaking of being transformed which also implies change.
c. Matthew 12:43-45, Jesus speaks of an unclean spirit going out of a man (its host) and aimlessly wandering with no rest. So he returns to his host and finds it cleaned and swept so he enters and brings with him 7 worse spirits to dwell with him. The last state is worse than the first. Becoming a Christian means you are putting something better in place! You fill yourself with that which is good and pleasing so that there is no room for that "old man" to return.
    i. Your thoughts are governed by His word – 2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8
    ii. Your spare time is spent on wholesome pursuits – Ephesians 5:16
    iii. Your resources are directed toward things that are pleasing to God.
    iv. Your prefer being with those who are trying to encourage you toward greater faithfulness
    v. Your outlook for life takes you in a different direction
    vi. Your goal in all of this – Satan has been "evicted" and when he returns he finds no room.
d. You are spiritually healthy – in Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus he speaks of *soundness*. That word means to be healthy. In fact, the Greek word (ὑγιαίνω, hygiainō) is that from which our English word *hygiene* is derived. He speaks of "sound doctrine" 4x (Titus 1:9, 2:1), "wholesome words" (1 Timothy 6:3), "sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13), being "sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13, 2:2). We often emphasize healthy lifestyles. This ought to take care of our "new man" as well.

V. I am added to His body, the church

a. Ephesians 1:22-23 tells us that the church is the body of Christ. When one is saved He is added to that number (Acts 2:47). If you are in Christ you are part of His church.
b. 1 Corinthians 12:13 notes that "*by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.*" This text is interesting as Paul relates the universal church to local congregations. Having been added to His church, He expects us to join ourselves to a group of the saved within a community and to <u>work</u>

together. There are works and responsibilities God has given us to do including worshipping Him, evangelizing, and building each other up in our faith. As we have frequently noted, in a world that resists God, we need each other!

c. The Christian life is not to be a life of isolation, but community. That is what the local church is about. Hebrews 10:25 warns us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Ephesians 4:16, when every part is doing its share, it causes the body (His church) to grow.

d. IF you desire to grow and mature in the faith, a faithful body of Christ needs to be a part of your life. Paul realized that and emphasized it. Acts 9:26, when he came to Jerusalem, he sought to join himself to them. There was work to be done. Many of his letters were directed to congregations with instructions of their purpose and work.

e. We need to understand that being part of His church is more than just having your name placed in the directory. It is a commitment to be part of that work helping us grow physically, spiritually and soundness.

VI. I have a greater hope

a. This is what becoming a Christian is all about. Yes, it is a choice of lifestyle that will impact every area of your life AND the lives of those around you. It comes at a cost and is not always easy. But ultimately this is about where you will spend eternity.

b. Hebrews 10:22-23, *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and* ***our bodies washed with pure water****. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*.

c. 1 Peter 1:3 speaks of having "*a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*."

d. Hebrews 6:19-20 describes our hope as an anchor of our soul fastened in heaven where Jesus is.

e. When we obey the gospel, we live knowing that our Creator has provided for us something better, a heavenly home (Hebrews 11:40). This is the writer's conclusion to the examples of enduring faithfulness.

f. Romans 8:18 Paul noted, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*. We do what we do so that when this life is over we will receive that eternal reward in heaven.

In conclusion: It is my hope that in this lesson we can see that baptism is MORE than simply getting wet. It is choosing to live a life for Christ and for others. It is choosing to live a life that is different from most of the world. It is choosing to live a life with a purpose that transcends anything and everything that can happen in this life. As noted, it is not always an easy life, but its ultimate reward is "out of this world".

What about you? Have you obeyed the gospel? That is, have you been baptized for the remission of your sins and to put on Christ? And if you have obeyed the gospel, let this lesson serve as a reminder of WHY you did. If there is some way that we can help you, let us do so. Think about it!