



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Baptism is an outward confession of an inward profession.”

Commencement; An Illustration of Baptism

I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior January 1, 1972 alone in my bedroom. I went to a church that had a baptismal but I was not taught the importance of baptism. In the fall of 1974, I went to Liberty Baptist College. With a name like that they talked a lot about baptism. While there I became convicted about not being baptized. I wrote home that I wanted to be baptized over the Christmas break. To my surprise, my sister, brother and father all said they wanted to be baptized as well. My mother was previously baptized. It was a joyful service.

In a way baptism reminds me of a graduation service. We all been through a commencement with the pomp and circumstance, your family and friends watching, your name being read, and all the congratulations afterwards. My oldest son graduated from college and there was a big commencement service. However, when he graduated with his online Master's Degree, he did not attend the service. My younger son also did not attend his college commencement service but got his diploma in the mail.

No one has ever had their name announced as a graduate at commencement before they even started their education requirements. Attending a commencement does not make you a graduate. Being in commencement under a deceased relative's name does not make you or the relative a graduate. On the flip side, not attending commencement does not null and void your accomplishments or diploma, either. But what does this have to do with baptism?

Nowhere in the Bible does it state that because of baptism as a baby or before you became a believer of Jesus that you will be allowed into heaven. Nowhere in the Bible does it state that baptism for a deceased relative will allow that person into heaven. There is no record in the Bible that any of Jesus' disciples, the women at the well, the thief on the cross, Zacchaeus, Nicodemus or even the Virgin Mary were baptized. There is no record that Jesus baptized anyone. It was only after His resurrection that Jesus instructed, His disciples to baptize others. So, what and why get baptized?

Baptism is an outward confession of an inward profession. In other words, it shows others that you confessed that you were a sinner and accepted Jesus as your Savior. It identifies you with His death, burial and resurrection. It is a form of commission for you to perform His work. It is a step of obedience.

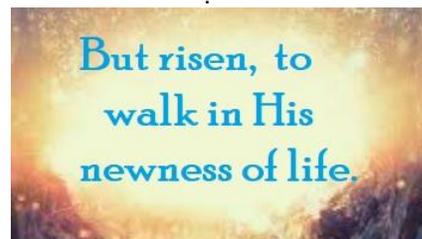
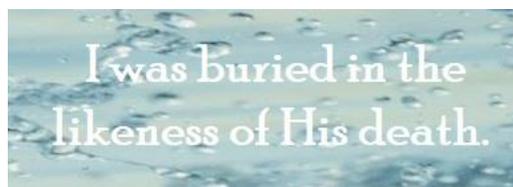
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” Mark 16:16 “Those who try to use this verse to teach that baptism is necessary for salvation commit a common but serious mistake that is sometimes called the Negative Inference Fallacy. This is the rule to follow: “If a statement is true, we cannot assume that all negations (or opposites) of that statement are also true.” Consider this example: “Whoever believes and lives in Kansas will be saved.” This statement is strictly true; Kansans who believe in Jesus will be saved. However, to say that only those believers who live in Kansas are saved is an illogical and false assumption. The one specific condition required for salvation is stated in the second part “Whoever does not believe will be condemned.”¹



Were you?

Charles L Stambaugh Mt Wolf PA

BAPTISM ROMANS 6:4



¹www.gotquestions.org/baptism-Mark-16-16.html

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