

“WATER SALVATION?”

By Keith Greer

It has always been interesting to me how others believe they understand what I believe. Recently, during a discussion concerning the plan of salvation, my belief of "water salvation" came up. Do I believe this?

Much misunderstanding comes from others who do not accept plain Bible passages. First, we must decide what is the agent which takes away the "sin problem". We all agree this is the problem. Right?

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. " {Isaiah 59:2}

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," {Romans 3:23}

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. " {1 John 1:8}

So we can rightfully conclude that all men have the sin problem. Now we must find a remedy for this problem of sin. What saith the Scriptures?

"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. {Hebrews 9:22} What kind of blood?

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. "{Hebrews 10:4} Animal blood could not do it.

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:20} We could not buy ourselves back. Shedding our blood cannot do it.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" {Ephesians 1: 7}

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}

"And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, "{Revelation 1: 5}

"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. " {1 John 2:2} It is the blood of Christ which has the power to take away the sin. How does man receive it?

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was

raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." {Romans 6:3,4}

"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. "{Colossians 2:11,12}

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. "{2 Corinthians 5:17}

What has made him a new creature? Why can one arise from baptism to "walk in newness of life"? Something has changed. One has gone from the state of being lost to being saved. One has been on the outside looking in and not they are "in Christ", Galatians 3:26,27. He has now been redeemed from his sins. Did the water take away the sin? No more than the ceremonial washings in the Old Testament purged the sins committed under that covenant. By the offering of the animal sacrifices it placed the sinner in a position to benefit from Christ's death on the cross. No, it was the blood in His death--the ransom price was paid. God made the water the agent to contact that blood. Simple isn't it? ***