

## THE PLACE AND PURPOSE OF BAPTISM (2)

BY KEITH GREER

Now that we have examined what baptism cannot do, let us turn our attention to **What Baptism Can Do:**

**Place one in Christ.** *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”* {Galatians 3:26,27} Why does one need to be in Christ? This is where all spiritual blessings can be enjoyed. Forgiveness and redemption are one of those blessings.

**Unite one with Christ and His death.** *“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} Yes, there is power in Christ’s blood. He shed His blood when He died on Calvary’s cross. The Bible clearly teaches that the blood Christ shed on Calvary has the atoning power to cleanse us from our sins {Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5}. According to that same Bible, our only means of reaching that precious cleansing blood is through the waters of baptism. If you deny this truth, provide a passage that shows another way we can contact the blood.

**Provide remission of sins.** *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”* {Acts 2:38} For this very reason, Jesus shed His blood {Matthew 26:28}. Those in the audience on the Day of Pentecost were convicted of their guilt in putting God’s Son to death; and they wanted to remove that sin from their record. Peter gave them the answer. Many of today’s religious thinkers deny the teaching in Peter’s answer. Yet, on that day, 3,000 souls perfectly understood and obeyed the Spirit-revealed message of Peter and the other apostles!

**Wash away sins.** *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* {Acts 22:16} After Saul of Tarsus fasted and prayed for three days, Ananias came to him and asked why he was

waiting; and told him what he needed was to be baptized and wash away his sins. Some people teach that God forgives a person's sins at the moment of belief. If this is true, the Lord apparently didn't know it. He's the one who sent Ananias to tell Saul what to do!

**Put us into the one body.** *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”* {1 Corinthians 12:13} Paul showed the church at Corinth that their baptism had put them into the Lord's church. This is also what happened on the Day of Pentecost {Acts 2:47}. Regardless of race, nationality, or station in life, when one obeys the command to be baptized, the Lord adds him to the church, the institution He purchased with His blood {Acts 20:28}. Understand this vital truth—unbaptized believers are not in Christ's body and therefore have no fellowship with Him. Please read **John 3:3-5**. Baptism is the new spiritual birth that places one in the kingdom and changes his relationship with Christ.

Have you obeyed God's command to be baptized? Do not be fooled or confused by the false teaching regarding this subject. Examine your Bible to understand how baptism fits into God's Scheme of Redemption. A perfect design for His purpose. \*\*\*