

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, April 2, 2006

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?", (Romans 6:1-3))

This morning we continue a series of lessons answering the question, "What do I HAVE to do to be saved?"

So far we have read from Scripture that one must believe (first having heard the Word of God) and then act on that belief with obedience to God's commands by repenting (turning away from sin and toward Him) and confessing with the mouth our loyalty to Jesus, the Son of the true and living God.

On these points, there seems to be very little objection from the denominational and so-called non-denominational world of religions in agreeing that if you don't – you will not have eternal life with God.

Confusing it is to this Bible reader how many folks have apparently chosen to simply cut out several verses of scripture – as regards the topic for this morning, being baptized (immersed in water) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Even from just the one passage cited in this brief article, it is plain that the Bible explains a direct connection between baptism and salvation.

Several folks have asked me through the years why we teach so much about baptism. One answer is that so many teach so little. Another is to point out that this is the sixth lesson out of seven in the series and only the first that has addressed baptism. Do the math ☺.

However, this step of obedience is not only no less important than those before or those after, it happens that it is THIS act of obedience that scripture teaches one may FIRST begin to wear the name Christian.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal