

# Is Baptism Essential For Salvation? (No. 9)

By Casey Head

Paul says in Galatians 3:26-27, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Denominational scholars and preachers teach that once a person has faith and prays the sinner's prayer, they are "in Christ" and therefore saved. In other words, it is usually taught that a person is "in Christ" first (at the point of faith) and then baptized later...perhaps weeks or months later during an official church or baptismal service. But that is the very opposite of what Paul is saying in Galatians 3:26-27. Paul, a man inspired by God, says that we are "baptized into Christ" which means that we are not "in Christ" before baptism.

What is the significance of being "in Christ?" According to Ephesians 1:3 God has "blessed us with all **spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ." Paul again says in 2 Timothy 2:10, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes that they may also obtain the **salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." Romans 3:24 says that "**redemption...is in Christ Jesus." If salvation, redemption and all spiritual blessings are found in Christ, and if Paul says in Galatians 3:27 that we are "baptized into Christ," then shouldn't we conclude that baptism is essential for salvation?**

Some people might ask, "If what you're saying about verse 27 is correct, then why does Paul say in verse 26 that we are all children of God by faith in Christ? Doesn't that mean that we are saved by faith only?" First of all, there is no contradiction between faith and baptism, as both can be equally essential in the plan of salvation. After all, Jesus says in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." You see, faith and baptism work together!

Having said that, let's notice the progression in Galatians 3:26-27. Paul says in verse 26 that we are NOW the children of God by faith (present tense). Why are we currently the children of God? Paul introduces the reason in verse 27. We are now the children of God by faith because we HAVE BEEN baptized into Christ. In other words, we are baptized into Christ where we become children of God by faith in Christ. It is that simple! A person must be baptized to be saved!

If you have any questions, or if you would like to meet for a private Bible study or public debate, please contact me. I want to hear from you. My phone number is (828)467-1463. My email address is NCBibleQuestions@yahoo.com, and my mailing address is P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, NC 28777.