

LESSON 16

Does Baptism Save You? The Truth from Scripture

6: Baptism

Executive Summary

The Greek word baptizo means "to immerse" — a symbolic act representing the believer's union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. But baptism does not save. Salvation is by grace through faith alone. Baptism is a public testimony of a salvation already received, not a means of earning it.

Key Terms

Baptism	The public sign of identification with Christ and His people, pointing to union with Him in death and resurrection.
Salvation	God's gracious rescue of sinners through the finished work of Christ, received by faith rather than earned by works.
Grace	God's unearned favor toward sinners, shown supremely in Christ and active in the believer's growth.
Union with Christ	The believer's spiritual participation in Christ's death, resurrection, life, and righteousness through faith.

Key Verses

English Standard Version (ESV)

Romans 6:3-4

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 23:43

43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Application Questions

1. What does baptism picture about a believer's relationship with Christ?

2. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how is a person saved?

3. How would you answer someone who believes the act of baptism earns salvation?

4. If you have trusted Christ, what should your baptism tell others about your faith?
