

# **BAPTISM, AFTER SALVATION?**

**By Denny Coburn**

**TEXT: Eph. 4:1-6**

**INTRO:** In 1999 I attended Hillsboro Family Camp and Don Nash, the Greek teacher at KCC (now KCU) was one of the speakers. After reading a text on baptism he paused and looked into space and said to himself, "I wonder why the Bible says so much about baptism to those who have already been baptized?" My mind began to wrestle with that question and the following year I had an opportunity to preach at Family Camp. I answered that question there and have preached it in other places. Here, in an abbreviated form is that message.

## **I. AS A REMINDER OF OUR UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

### **A. ONE IN HIM**

1. "...for we are baptized by one Spirit into one body," 1 Cor. 12:13
2. The Corinthian church was fighting over differences
3. The church is a unity, a body with various parts
4. Jesus prayed for unity - John 17

### **B. ONE HEAD**

1. Perfectly linked by God 1 Cor. 1:10
2. One Father and should be one mind
3. One purpose - share the good news
4. Christ is not divided - verses 7, 13

### **C. ONE BAPTISM**

1. Ephesians 4:3-6 - Keep the unity
2. Baptized in Christ's name
3. Only One died for you
4. A reminder that at baptism we are united in Christ

## **II. AS A REMINDER OF OUR RESURRECTED LIFE**

### **A. OUR CURRENT RESURRECTION**

1. Romans 6:3-4 - Raised from baptism into Him
2. Live no longer in sin - "God forbid"
3. Alive in Christ, Col. 2:13

### **B. OUR FUTURE RESURRECTION**

1. 1 Cor. 15:29
2. Paul reminds them what happened at baptism
3. Things change now in hope of the last resurrection

## **III. AS A REMINDER OF OUR FREEDOM FROM THE LAW**

### **A. BAPTISM IS SEPARATION FROM THE LAW**

1. Some say baptism is a work. It is, a work of God. (Col. 2:12)
2. Gal. 3:26-27 "...you are sons of God... through faith in Jesus Christ. For (or because) all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ."
3. Baptism is an act of faith that separates from Law

**B. BAPTIZED BY THE SPIRIT**

1. Man performs the act, the Holy Spirit performs the transformation
2. He cancels the Law- Col 2:12-14

**IV. AS A REMINDER OF OUR SALVATION**

**A. WHEN THE ESSENTIALLY ISSUE POPS UP AGAIN.**

1. 1 Peter 3:21 - removes all doubt about the necessity for water baptism.
2. The flood is the symbol of baptism
3. Baptism is the point of salvation
4. Derives its power in the resurrection of Jesus
5. Just read 1 Peter 3:18-21 slowly, let it speak.

**B. WHEN DOUBTS COME**

1. Disputes over diversity... look back at baptism
2. Doubts about resurrection... look back at baptism
3. Worried about law keeping... look back at baptism
4. Doubt your salvation... look back at baptism

CONCLUSION: I discovered that every time the early Christians had difficulties with division, doubt, the law, or their salvation the Holy Spirit guided Paul to remind them of what took place at their baptism.