

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The ‘Baptism’ That Does Save”

1 Peter 3:21-22

APRIL 15 – APRIL 21, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we finish up chapter 3 of **First Peter**. The two verses we will spend our time on (**verses 21-22**) as well as the previous **verses 19-20** have been widely debated by scholars as to their meaning. We will in no way be able to exhaust this passage of its deep truths but Lord willing we will unpack it this next Lord’s Day. Read our text in **1 Peter 3:18-22**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and hat you would grow in your understanding of Him and His Word.

MONDAY –Today let’s begin by reminding ourselves of last weeks study as well as the context of the passage in general. Peter has been explaining Christ Jesus’ suffering and showing us in His suffering His triumph. Peter then has brought us back to Noah’s day when he explained to whom it was that Christ “preached” to in **verse 19**. We saw from **Genesis 6:1-22** God’s marvelous grace as well as mankind’s wickedness and sin. Then we saw God’s divine judgment for that sin in the great flood. But amidst all that we find that God was pleased with Noah and that by faith Noah obeyed God and was spared from Divine judgment by the Almighty. Read another passage which reminds us of this story and points to the only method of Salvation—faith alone in the One True God. **Hebrews 11:6-7**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You God that you have granted faith to us to believe in Your Son Jesus as our “Ark of Safety”.

TUESDAY –In **verse 21** Peter is using the story of the flood and Noah’s deliverance from the waters of judgment in the ark as a huge illustration or pattern. He actually uses the word “antitupos” (a thing formed after some

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Sat							
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M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

pattern, a thing resembling another, its counterpart). He is saying, “There is something that corresponds to this whole story that I’ve been explaining, it resembles it and by the way, the thing that corresponds, it “*saves us*”. The thing he mentions is “*Baptism*” (Greek baptisma –immersion, submersion). Read these verses which help to explain what we will soon see in more detail: **1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 6:3-4.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank you Jesus that by being “immersed” into You by faith I have eternal life and salvation and help me live with gratitude.

WEDNESDAY –What could Peter possibly mean when he says in **verse 21**, “*There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism...?*” This passage as I mentioned earlier in the week has been debated and seen differently by various scholars. Some believe that Peter is here speaking of water baptism and that he defines that stance with what he then says parenthetically in **verse 21**. What he says parenthetically in **verse 21** is this: (“*not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God...*”). I would argue that what he says here is clear proof that he is **NOT** speaking of water baptism. Peter wants to be sure he is not misunderstood when He says that one is saved when the are “baptisma” (immersed) into Christ, so he spells out that he is not speaking of Christian baptism or being “immersed” into water. Being water baptized is not how we are saved. Read **Romans 8:9-11, 1 Peter 1:18-21.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God today that it is not by ANY work of ours that we are saved but by “believing” in Him and His work for us by faith.

THURSDAY – As Peter continues he explains that it is not water baptism that saves a person rather being immersed into Christ, the “ark of safety”. As John MacArthur has put it, “The only baptism that saves people is dry—the spiritual one into the death as well as the resurrection of Christ—of those who appeal to God to place them into the spiritual ark of salvation safety.” As we have just passed Easter Sunday I hope it is still fresh in your mind that it is the Resurrection of Jesus that guarantees that all men will rise again; some to “everlasting shame and contempt and some to everlasting life” (**Daniel 12:2**). Read how a person “appeals” to God to place them into the spiritual ark of salvation safety from **Romans 10:9-10.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus that we have the hope of eternal life in You guaranteed because of Your victorious Resurrection over death.

FRIDAY –So much more could be said that will have to wait until Sunday in reference to the “*antitype*” or picture/symbol of salvation in comparison to the flood. For the remainder of today let’s focus a bit more on the last part of **verse 21**. A person who would be saved (immersed into Christ in spiritual union) is one who “*eperotema*” (here in our text it is translated as “*the answer...*”) This word means “an enquiry, a question, a demand, earnestly seeking, craving, an intense desire”. The person who finds rest in the ark of safety is the one who feels the burden of their sin is plagued by their conscience and is willing to repent and turn by faith alone to God through Jesus Christ and His death as the remedy for their sin problem. The Bible is full of verses that promise forgiveness as described here for the penitent sinner. Read **Matthew 5:3-4, 11:28-30, Luke 18:13-14.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Father for the rest promised to those of us You have convicted, made aware of our heavy burden of sin and have drawn to Your Son Jesus Christ & His death on the cross to pay our debt.

SATURDAY –After Peter finishes touching on the various topics he’s covered in the past verses he returns to the main theme of the entire Epistle—“*suffering*”. In **verse 22** He shows us the exaltation of Christ after His resurrection to the place of honor at the right hand of God. The point Peter is making to us as his readers is that amidst suffering for doing well a person can find their greatest triumph; such was the case with Jesus. Yes He suffered, but He was triumphant in all things; His suffering, His work on the cross and His preaching victory to the spirits in prison. Read **Ephesians 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:3-6.**

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: All praise be to You Jesus, for being the victorious suffering servant. Help me to follow Your example and love You more.