



Is Baptism a Work?

The denominational world informs us that baptism is a work and then quotes us Scriptures that we are not saved by works. They love to quote **Ephesians 2** to prove their theory. Amazingly, the average person buys into that much too quickly.

Let's see if it makes sense. **If baptism is a "work", then:**

- × **Jesus did a work to fulfill all righteousness.**
Matthew 3:13-15, "13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."
- × **John preached a work was necessary for remission of sins.**
Mark 1:4, "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."
- × **Doing a work justifies God and one rejects the counsel of God if he does not do this work.**
Luke 7:29-30, "29 And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."
- × **Peter told the Jews to do a work for the remission of their sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**
Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
- × **When a person gladly did a work he was added to the church.**
Acts 2:41, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls."
- × **Since Paul asked what he must do, and he was told go to Damascus and he would be told what he must do (Acts 9:6). The only thing that Annanias told him to do was to be baptized.** But the theory says that baptism is a work.
- × **Paul washed away his sins by doing a work.**
Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- × **When Phillip preached to the Eunuch "Jesus," he must have preached a gospel of works, for the Eunuch asked what hindered him to be baptized.**
Acts 8:35-36, "35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on *their way*, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is water*; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"
- × **In the great commission Jesus commands us to go and get people to do a work.**
Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
- × **He that believeth and does a work shall be saved.**
Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
- × **When Peter preached words whereby Cornelius might be saved he commanded him to do a work.**
Acts 11:14, Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."
Acts 10:48, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."
- × **Peter says that a work is the answer of a good conscience.**

I Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

- × **Paul says we are buried with him by doing a work since a work is required for one to be raised to a new life.**

Romans 6:3-4, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

- × **To get into Christ, we must do a work.**
Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

All these verses show that baptism was to be done to be saved. **So since Paul says we are not saved by works, it must be obvious to any logical mind that baptism is not a work and has nothing to do with what Paul is talking about in Ephesians 2 when it says we are not saved by works.**

In regards to not being saved by works, Paul speaks often in many other Scriptures that we are not saved by the works of the Law.

- ↳ **Galatians 2:16**, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, **and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**"
- ↳ **Galatians 3:2**, "This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"**
- ↳ **Acts 13:38-39**, "38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 **And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.**"
- ↳ **Romans 3:20, 28**, "20 **Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.** 28 **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**"

The **Ephesians 2** passage, which is so badly abused by "faith only" advocates, does not say what they imagine it says.

Ephesians 2:5-10, "5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.** 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Considering the above verses we know that Paul speaks often about "works salvation". **But remember that grace is always contrasted to Law keeping.**

Faith is always contrasted to the works of the law. It is salvation that is the gift of God, not faith.

Salvation is because of God's giving us what is unmerited, not because we earned it or deserve it by good works we have done.

We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Good works is not the cause of our salvation but the purpose of our salvation.

We do good works because we are saved, not to be saved.

Question:
Did He save us to do the work of baptism? Of course not.

He saved us to do good works to bless others. **It is obvious that baptism is not the works of which He speaks in this Ephesians passage.**

We are not saved by the good works of the Law or of our own initiative. We are saved by Gods grace and salvation is received when we appropriate to ourselves by faith in what Jesus did, not by things we have done.

Suppose you are lost in a snowstorm in the Northwest. Finally you find a cabin. You go in it and a note is on the table. It says, "to whoever is in need of the things in this cabin, greetings. Feel free to use the firewood, food, coats, and blankets that are in this cabin to keep yourself warm in the event that you get snowbound. Signed, the owner."

Now that was an act of grace on his part, wouldn't you say? The owner did not decide who was going to come to the cabin but he stocked those things necessary to save a freezing and hungry man. **Would you be saved by works if you built a fire, put on the coats, or snuggled under the blankets?**

In other words, **when you appropriated to your use that which was provided by grace by the host, would you**

go and tell people you were saved by your own ingenuity and works, or would you say you were saved by the owners' grace in providing you the things that you need for your salvation from the storm?

I am amazed, in fact I marvel, at the stupidity of those who equate grace with doing nothing at all. Noah was saved by faith when he obeyed God and built an ark. It plainly says Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Lot was saved from Sodom, because he obeyed and fled the city.

Was Rahab not saved by faith when she hung the scarlet thread out the window of her house? James says she was. Wasn't that grace?

Yes... Each of these was saved by grace, through obedient faith. Like wise Paul received grace by the obedience to the faith.

Romans 1:5, "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"

And so the "Gospel" is made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." **Romans 16:26**, "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:"**

In the New Testament we are told plainly that the grace of God that bringeth salvation teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly and godly in this present age. **Titus 2:11-12.**

Grace is not a sin permit. Grace is not a license to sin.

The grace of God allows us to appropriate the salvation that He offers. This is done by coming into Christ and accepting His forgiveness and His Spirit. He give His Spirit unto those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

Baptism is not a work of salvation. It is the means of laying hold of His offer of getting into Him. **A man given a coat must put it on to enjoy its benefits. Likewise, we are baptized into Christ.**

Also, when we were baptized we dramatized personally the Gospel. We died with Him. We were buried with Him and were raised with Him to a new life. When one is baptized one is playing the role of a dead man!!! See **Romans 6:3-6, 15-18.**

How much work does a dead man do? It is not a work of righteousness or obedience to the Law of Moses that saves us, nor our faith in baptism.

Our faith is what God did when we were buried with Christ in baptism.

Read it for yourself.

Colossians 2:12-13, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (made alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"

Who did the work at your baptism? Was it you or was it God?

Is it faith in what we have done, or faith in what He has done that saves us?

God did the work!!! In our baptism, we appropriated the merits of Jesus' death by dying with Him, being buried with Him and letting Him raise us to a new life in Christ.

Glory to God, great things HE HATH DONE