

new life. Even though this seems to be an extremely logical instruction concerning not only the *necessity* of baptism, but also that it *must* be a *complete immersion* (or burial) if we choose to follow the *Biblical* instructions, there are nevertheless, many individuals who refuse to accept that baptism is an *essential* act necessary for clothing ourselves with Christ if we want protection from the *eternal* destroyer.

Concerning the confusion concerning holding some sort of *scheduled ceremony* for collective baptisms held monthly or quarterly — we see *no* example of any such event in the Scriptures. In virtually *every* conversion example listed in the Bible, the person was baptized *as soon as* he/she understood that baptism was the very act that would save him or her. There was *never* any delay. Likewise concerning baptizing infants — neither is there *any* example in the New Testament of a child or infant ever being baptized. If you know individuals who were baptized as infants or as children, and believe they are saved, we strongly suggest that you refer them to our issue of *Diligence* listed on the previous page — Volume 2, Issue 10.

There is yet one more “argument” expressed concerning whether or not baptism is an *essential* act *necessary* for salvation — or we might say — protection from the destroyer. There are many individuals — and even *many* denominations — that refer to this verse —

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV) —

and say that since baptism is a physical act, it is therefore a “work” and cannot be essential for salvation. If indeed, that is the case, then we need to *also* consider the following verse and ask the individual or denomination if *belief* then is *also* not essential since Jesus Himself described *belief* as a “work” —

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.’” (John 6:29 NASB)

The same Greek word is used in both instances.

While the Old Covenant was made obsolete by the New Covenant (Heb. 8:13) and is therefore no longer a source of doctrine, it became our “...*tutor to lead us to Christ...*” (Gal. 3:24 NASB). So the “blood on the doorpost” is an important help toward our understanding of how we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

“with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Pet. 1:19)

“...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Cor. 5:7 NIV)

“And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;...” (Rev. 12:11 KJV)

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Protection From The Destroyer

“Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, ‘Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’ Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.” (Exodus 12:21-30 NIV)

Many of us refer to “the destroyer” as the “Death Angel” even though that term is *only* used in a couple of *very* modern day translations of the Bible. No matter what name we use — we all know what it meant. It meant there would be death in any house — in *every* house — that *did not have the blood of the Passover lamb on its doorpost*. The blood on the doorpost was the *only* way to avoid tragedy. Homes not protected by the blood of the sacrificial Passover lamb *would* experience death. What was it “the destroyer” looked for that would cause him to pass over a house?? It was the blood of the lamb. Without the blood on the doorpost — there was no protection from death.

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV)

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The only way we are able to be spared from experiencing *eternal* death is *also* through the blood of a Lamb — the blood of the *perfect* Passover Lamb.

“And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!”
(John 1:36 KJV)

“...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”:” (1 Cor. 5:7 NIV)

“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Heb. 9:22 NIV)

“Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes — who are they, and where did they come from?’ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”
(Rev. 7:13-14 NIV)

So if we want to be among those who have made our robes white — thereby protecting us from *eternal* death because of the blood of the Passover Lamb of God, how do we *do* that — how *do* we “wash our robes” and make them white in His blood. We *do* that by being immersed in the watery grave of baptism.

“for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Gal. 3:27 NIV)

*“...don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **IF** we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”* (Rom. 6:3-8 NIV)

The Israelites were *required* to do a physical act that would make them visible to the destroyer. There would have been *no* benefit from just killing the Passover lamb. The fact that the lamb had died wasn't sufficient — they *had* to put the blood of that lamb on their doorpost. In like manner, just *knowing* and *believing* — and even *confessing* — that Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of God is not sufficient to protect *us* from the destroyer. Even the Devil knows and believes.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:19 KJV)

*“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, **having***

been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Col. 2:8-12 NIV)

Salvation is indeed a *free* gift of God. That gift however is of no value to us unless we reach out and *take* it. Circumcision was a *physical* act done by the hands of men — baptism is the *physical* act resulting in a *spiritual* circumcision done by Christ. Just *knowing* the gift is there and *believing* salvation is available *through* the blood of the Lamb does not offer protection from the destroyer. If that's all there is, there will be no visible sign “on the doorpost” — no spiritual circumcision done by Christ — *unless* our robes have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. When we clothe ourselves with Christ, we figuratively put His blood “on *our* doorpost.”

So we saw from Galatians 3:27 on the previous page that we “clothe ourselves with Christ”— thereby protecting ourselves from the destroyer — *when* we are baptized. Today — “baptize” seems to mean a variety of things — everything from sprinkling to pouring to the holding of a special ceremony once each month or each quarter to being baptized as an infant. There is however only *one* way that is the Biblical way. So, to help clarify that confusion, let's look back at the verses from Romans on the previous page as well as the verses above from Colossians and focus in on just a few words.

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4 NIV)

“...but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism...” (Col. 2:11-12 NIV)

We have discussed the subject of baptism in several issues of *Diligence* in the past. Some of those issues include the following —

Volume 1, Issue 20 — December 1, 2002

Five Reasons To Teach That Water Baptism Is Essential For Salvation

Volume 2, Issue 9 — June 15, 2003

Baptism — What Does It Require?

Volume 2, Issue 10 — July 1, 2003

A Study On The Baptism Of Infants

All of the articles listed above can be accessed by going to the web site listed at the bottom of page 4 of this issue — or — you may also call, e-mail or write (all listed at the bottom of page 4) and we will be happy to send the issues to you via regular mail.

Each of those issues — *especially* the last two — clearly explain why baptism is a complete *immersion* into a watery “grave” rather than just sprinkling or pouring. But even without reading those issues, the verses above refer to a “burial.” That alone would imply that “going under” something is necessary. The verses also *clearly* state that baptism is “a *burial with* Him” that results in being “*raised with* Him” to a new life. Without a “*burial*,” there can be no “*resurrection*” to the