

God's Dividing Line

Introduction

1. When we think of a dividing line, we think of something that separates between two or more things.
 - A. Many rivers are dividing lines. The Rio Grande River is a dividing line between the United States and Mexico. The Mississippi River is the dividing line between many states. Oceans and seas are dividing lines between nations.
2. Water is also a dividing line today, even in the Christian age. Religiously, many state that water does not have a part in God's plan of redemption.
 - A. In the Bible, water has been the dividing line many times. Let us notice just a few instances:

Noah

(Genesis 6)

1. The old world was in a bad condition. Sin reigned everywhere. God gave direction to Noah to build an ark.
 - A. As a result Noah was moved by faith to build the ark.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved with godly fear**, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

2. But the dividing line was water. The flood saved Noah from the old world which was condemned because of disobedience.
1 Peter 3:20-21
 - A. Likewise, we also, through obedience, die to sin and are buried and raised to walk in newness of life
Colossians 1:13

Israel

Exodus 14:9-13

1. Israel was in Egyptian bondage and then left Egypt.
 - A. The Egyptians then pursued them. Egyptians in the rear and nothing but water in front of them!
 - 1) The Egyptians perished in the sea, the very same water that separated the Israelites from the Egyptians.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, **all passed through the sea**, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

B. Israel was saved that day.

Exodus 14:30 So **the Lord saved Israel that day** out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

2. In like manner we are also saved today.
Romans 6:16-18, 3-6

Naaman

2 Kings 5

1. **Naaman had leprosy, a horrible disease that destroys the flesh as it dries and falls off the bones.**
 - A. **He was commanded to dip seven times in the river Jordan in order to be cleansed from his leprosy. He eventually obeyed and was cleansed.**

2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, **according to the saying of the man of God**; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

2. **In like manner, we too are cleansed. When we relate leprosy to sin, we are cleansed (forgiven) of sin through obedience to the gospel of Christ.**
 - A. **We arise from the water, a new creature.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

The Blind Man

John 9:1-12

1. Why did he receive his sight? Because he obeyed the voice of the Lord by washing his eyes in the pool of Siloam.
 - A. The beauties of God were shut out, now he can see!
2. We were once groping in darkness, but are now children of light when we respond and obey the gospel of Christ.

Ephesians 5:8-11

Every Sinner

1. All men need to cross over the dividing line from the kingdom of darkness, bondage of sin, leprosy, and blindness.
2. Some will say "It was not the water that made Naaman clean or the blind man see, it was their obedience." Exactly!
 - A. In the very same way, the waters of baptism serve as a dividing line between the lost and the saved.
 - 1) In order for one to be saved, he must hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Before and After Baptism Charts

Devil's Children

John 8:44

Sinful Life

1 John 5:19

Condemned in Sin

John 3:17-18; John 3:36

Defiled by Sin

Titus 1:15

All Have Sinned

Rom 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 John 1:8

Jesus Shed His Blood for All

1 John 2:2

In the World

John 3:17

Born Again

John 3:3-5

New Creatures

2 Cor 5:17; Rom 6:3-4

Remission of Sins

Acts 2:38; Col 1:14; Gal 3:27

Sins are Washed Away

Acts 22:16; Rev 7:14; Rev 1:5

God Saved Us

Titus 3:5; Acts 22:16

Sanctified (Set Apart)

Eph 5:25-26; 1 Cor 6:11

In the Church

1 Cor 12:13; Acts 2:47

Conclusion

- 1. People may tell us that baptism is not important, that it does not save us from our sins.**
 - A. Many preachers will say that it is not necessary to obtain salvation.**

- 2. However, we can and do know from the inspired Word of God that it is truly the dividing line between being lost and being saved!**
 - A. I encourage you and God commands you to pass through the dividing line so that you can be saved and to look forward to living an eternity with Jesus Christ!**
 - 1) But the choice is yours. God has always given His creation choice. Jesus' invitation is once again offered. But you have to decide to live for God or live for the Devil.**

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

