

Colossians - Chapter 2
“A Baptism Without Water”
Colossians 2:12-13

Verse 12

1. Remember the context of this section. In Christ, the believer lacks absolutely nothing.
2. Religious teachers were infiltrating this church, telling them otherwise. Some were emphasizing the keeping of the law and the importance of the rite of circumcision.
3. Some were claiming the necessity of going through a baptismal ritual. This still happens so often in religious circles, today. They teach that something mystical happens when the physical water is applied, and the recipient gains special grace and favor from God.
4. Paul reveals an incredible truth that dispels this error. He revealed that the believer in Christ is **already** baptized! Not a physical baptism into water by a man, but a spiritual baptism into Christ that is performed by the operation of God Himself.
5. It is important to realize that there are many baptisms in the Bible, and some have nothing to do with a water ceremony. Examples:
 - Israel's passage through the Red Sea on **dry** land. 1 Corinthians 10:2
 - Christ's death on the cross. Luke 12:50
6. Another example would be 1 Corinthians 12:13. When a person trusts Christ today, the Holy Spirit immediately baptizes that person into the body of Christ and identifies that person eternally with Christ's finished work. This is the baptism of Colossians 2:12.
7. Paul says that we are buried with Christ in baptism, and raised up with Christ through the faith (faithfulness; truth) of the operation of God.
8. We don't bury people in water. A water ceremony has no power to be able to bury a person's old life, give him new, spiritual life, and identify him inseparably with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Only God can do this.
 - Praise God, He does it! It was the power of God that changed us, not the power of water.
9. In the Bible, the word “baptism” speaks of identification. At the moment of salvation, we are so definitely identified in Christ that what is true of Him becomes true of us. Our old man died in Him at the cross, was buried, and we are raised up as new creatures in Christ. Romans 6:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21
10. Here is Paul's point: If we are identified fully in Christ and in His finished work, and if Christ is the fullness of God, what more do we need? Do I need a physical circumcision or a physical baptism to make me complete and whole? Can these outward rituals help in taking care of my sins and gaining me divine favor?
11. The next verse will settle that question beyond any doubt.

Verse 13

1. What a verse! This verse demonstrates our identity BC (before Christ), and our identity since we have been circumcised and baptized by God's Spirit.
2. Before Christ, God saw us as dead in our sins and in bondage to the law of sin in our flesh.
3. But, since we have believed on Christ, we are now identified in His resurrection. We have been quickened (made alive) with Him.
4. Sin was put away at the cross and we died in Him. This means that when we rose with Him, we were forgiven **all** trespasses. The sin issue was forever dealt with, and sin can never be held against us again. What a blessing.
5. There is no need for me to do acts of penance, religious rituals, good works, or repeated acts of confession to try to atone for my sin. I have been raised up with Christ. I am eternally identified in my Savior. I have been forgiven all trespasses!
6. I am free from sin (Romans 6:7). Does this truth cause me to want to go out and sin? It shouldn't. Paul says, "*How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*" Romans 6:1-2; cf. Romans 6:14-17
7. When I do yield myself to sin, what should I do? Do I have to get saved again and die again with Christ? No, Christ died unto sin once. Romans 6:10
8. Do I have to confess it, and through my confession secure forgiveness for fear that God might hold it against me? No! In Christ I have total and complete forgiveness as a present possession. I have been forgiven all trespasses. Colossians 1:14
9. What do I do when I sin? I simply realize that this is not who I am in Christ any longer. This is no longer my identity. It is not who I am any more. I go to the Lord and thank Him for the forgiveness Christ purchased for me at Calvary, and let Him know that I am trusting Him and I need Him to live His life through mine.