

God's grace is based on:

the imputed righteousness of Christ for us - received by Faith

Not on:

- 1. Divine tolerance** Rom.1
- 2. Divine election** Rom.2
- 3. Human merit** Rom.3
- 4. Holy sacraments** Rom.4

Romans 4

"⁹ Is this blessing then upon the circumcised, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say, "*Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.*" ¹⁰ How then was it reckoned? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; ¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be reckoned to them ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised."

**Abraham (father of faith)
is father of both Jew and Gentile**

Abraham is given
the promise

Gen.12

Jewish track

Abraham
circumcised

Gen.17

Abraham
offers Isaac

Gen.22

Moses
receives the Law

Exodus 20

Abraham is
justified by faith

Gen.15

Gentile track

**We are not heirs
to grace through
religious rituals
but through faith.**

¹³ For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; ¹⁵ for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

***The Promise to Abraham that his seed
would be a blessing to the world***

***Was not through
the Law,***

***which brought
wrath not
inheritance.***

***But was through
faith,***

***which could not
be nullified by
disobedience to
a Law that was
not yet given.***

Three kinds of “works”

1

2

3

Moral acts		Ceremonial acts
Works of the flesh	Fruit of the Spirit	A sign of faith
Human (superficial) morality	Moral acts of Discipleship	Ceremonial holiness
“dead works”	Faith working through love	Water baptism
Christian obedience that follows faith		

Water Baptism (like circumcision)



Sacrament

Essential for salvation

It is the actual means of imparting saving grace

Seal

Rite of initiation to salvation

It is the formal outward marker of identification with Christ

Sign

Optional to salvation

It is a way of testifying to our new life in Christ

Some things people do that are thought to bring spiritual security.

- Water baptism
- The Lord's Supper
- Church attendance
- Bible reading
- Prayer
- Tithing
- Going on a mission
- Vocational ministry

**THESE BECOME
SACRAMENTAL
ONLY WHEN
EXPRESSED
THROUGH
FAITH.**

Water baptism?

- its relationship to salvation?

Church of Christ
(saving act)

Sacramental churches
(seal with benefits)

Ordinance churches
(sign only)

Acts 2:38

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent,

and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 10:2

“and all were baptized **into** Moses”

“as a sign of identification with”

Repent

Outward sign of repentance

baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

for the forgiveness of your sins

Inward fruit of repentance

receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 22:16

“And now why do you delay?

Rising up,
be baptized

and

wash away your sins,
calling on His name.”

1 Peter 3:21

“And corresponding to that (**Noah’s flood**), baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

As Noah was separated from his evil generation by the flood so baptism identifies those who are called out of the world and into God’s kingdom.

1 Corinthians 1:14-16

Paul de-emphasized baptism

“I thank God that I baptized none of you, – For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,”

Acts 10:43-47, 11:13-18

Some believers were baptized after receiving the Spirit. This would be strange if baptism were necessary for salvation.

“Luke never mentions water-baptism by itself as the condition of or means to receiving forgiveness; he mentions it only in connection with some other attitude (repentance—Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38) or act (calling on his name—Acts 22:16). But whereas water-baptism is never spoken of as the sole prerequisite to receiving forgiveness, Luke on a number of occasions speaks of repentance or faith as the sole prerequisite (Luke 5:20; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 5:31; 10:43; 13:38; 26:18; cf. 4:4; 9:35, 42; 11:21; 13:48; 14:1; 16:31; 17:12, 34).” (*Dunn, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, pp.96-97*)

Biblical rational for infant baptism

1. It is a part of a theology that combines the Old and New Covenants.

Genesis 17:11-13

“You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and you. . . .

My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.”

Biblical rational for infant baptism

2. It sees baptism as the N.T. parallel to O.T. circumcision.

Colossians 2:11-12

“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.”

Assumptions

1. It transfers the faith of the parents to the heart of the infant.
2. When the infant reaches an age of accountability the baptism is ratified.

Acts 2:39 "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 16:15 "When she [Lydia] and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home."

Problems

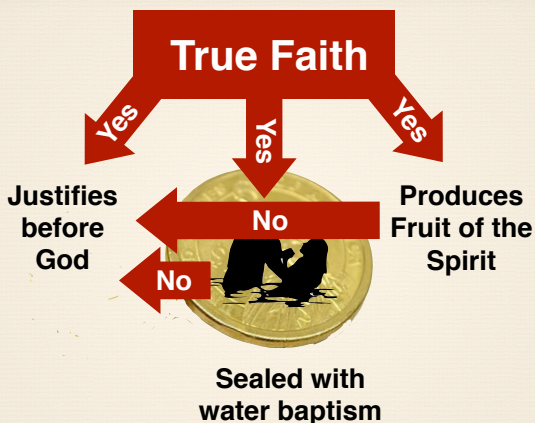
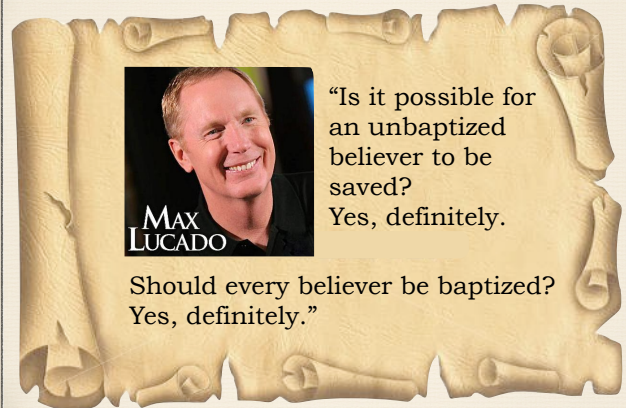
1. It is not clear that the O.T. and N.T. represent the same covenant system.
2. N.T. baptism is normally associated with a confession of faith.

Acts 2:38 "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.'"

Acts 18:8 "Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized."

How should we view infant baptism?

- *The church is divided on this issue.*
- *Enlightened tolerance is in order.*
- *The CHBC respects both views but practices believer's baptism.*



How should we view water baptism?

- *It is not a sacrament that saves us in and of itself.*
- *It is an outward expression of repentance.*
- *It is a seal that assures us in times of trial.*
- *It is an expected expression of repentance & true faith.*
- *It can be likened to a spiritual marriage ceremony.*

