



tough QUESTIONS

baptism

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
John 3:5

Introduction:

- Baptism is commonly understood to wash away our sins. But is this really the teaching of Scripture? This morning – with great respect for differing views – we will answer the “Tough Question” of the significance of baptism.

Where Does This View Come From?

1. *Baptism... was instituted to confer upon men the very beginnings of the spiritual life, to transfer them from the state of enemies of God to the state of adoption, as sons of God. Baptism is, therefore, the sacrament by which we are born again of water and the Holy Ghost, that is, by which we receive in a new and spiritual life, the dignity of adoption as sons of God and heirs of God's kingdom.*

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02258b.htm>

Cf. John 3:1-8

In context, “born of water” refers to _____
and “born of the Spirit” refers to _____.

2. *God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.*

ELCA Service of Holy Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pg. 227

Cf. I Peter 3:21

Certain theological traditions misinterpret Peter's statement “baptism now saves you” to refer to spiritual salvation by water baptism. But baptism simply means “to immerse,” and not just in water. Peter here uses baptism to refer to a figurative immersion into Christ as the ark of safety that will sail over the holocaust of judgment on the wicked.

John MacArthur, **NT Commentary: I Peter**, pg. 218

What is the Teaching of Scripture Concerning Salvation?

Ephesians 2:8,9

Acts 16:30,31

Romans 10:9,10

It is the clear and consistent teaching of Scripture that salvation comes through _____...not _____.

What is the Significance of Baptism? (Romans 6:3-14)

Baptism PICTURES and PROCLAIMS:

1. The _____ (v. 3,4)

2. _____ to the old life (v. 5-7)

3. _____ (re-birth) of a new life in Christ (v. 8-11)

Why Should a Christ-Follower Get Baptized?

1. Baptism is the _____ of Jesus (Matthew 28:19,20)

2. Baptism is the _____ of the New Testament believers

3. Baptism is your _____ to the world (Matthew 10:32)