

Sunday, May 9, 2021

“Hope-Filled Living”

Summary of What Does Baptism Have to Do with Salvation

1 Peter 3:18-22

Wayne Shelton

In the Great Commission, Jesus tells the apostles to ‘make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ Doriani explains that in this case, ‘teaching and baptizing are means or instruments of discipleship.’ For adults, then, baptism is a confirmation of their faith and an instrument of their union with the triune God. For children, the Spirit may or may not impart new life at the time of baptism, but baptism can surely be a means for discipleship. For instance, Doriani writes ‘when a child witnesses an infant baptism during worship, parents (or others) can remind the child of his or her own baptism.’ We affirm that God gives grace in baptism and yet deny that it guarantees salvation or necessarily regenerates unto eternal life. As Protestants, we want to stand between two errors. We deny that baptism is a *mere* sign, and we deny that baptism is an intrinsically efficacious sign [That is, we deny the act itself does actually save.]”

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