

Cheltenham  
Ps Rob Buckingham  
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## **PICTURES OF BAPTISM**

### **Message Notes**

*1 Peter 3:21, "This water [of The Flood] symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."*

*1 Corinthians 10:1-2, "For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."*

*Colossians 2:11-12, "Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."*

### **Picture 1: The Flood**

The Flood is a picture of baptism. The eight people on board the ark knew that they were different than all the other people in the world. They were saved because they believed what God said would happen. The wickedness of the people was gone, and the 8 would start over. It was a fresh start, a new beginning.

## **Picture 2: The Exodus**

By crossing the Red Sea many things were taking effect:

They had to trust God

They were leaving their past behind

They had a new future, but it was unknown and a little scary

They were leaving slavery and becoming free

They had a Saviour (Moses)

Their past ruler (Pharaoh) had died

There may have been a helpless feeling when the Israelites walked through the waters seeing the past coming after them. But when they came up out of the water they had a brand new life...

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## **Picture 3: The Burial**

Colossians 2:11-12, *"Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."*

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Baptism = Gk. baptizo

It means, *"to immerse so that what is dipped takes on the qualities of what it has been dipped into."*

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The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be `dipped' (bapto) into boiling water and then `baptized' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. Both acts of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change

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Rev. William P. Barker tells of a machinist at Ford Motor Company in Detroit who became a Christian. He responded to the invitation and was baptized. As the Holy Spirit began renewing this man he became convicted of his need to make restitution for some parts and tools he had stolen from the company prior to becoming a Christian. So the next morning he brought all the tools and parts back to his employer. He explained how he had just been baptized and asked for his foreman's forgiveness.

This was such an amazing turn of events that Henry Ford, who was visiting a plant in Europe at the time, was cabled with the details of the matter and asked for his response. Mr. Ford immediately returned a cable with his decision: "Dam up the Detroit River, and baptize the entire city."

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If you've already been baptized remind yourself of what has taken place and continue to live in the reality of that truth:

You're trusting in God  
You've left your past behind  
You've left slavery and are now free  
You have a new future that is unknown but you know who holds it

*"I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return" (2 Timothy 1:12)*

Those of you being baptized, realise the significance of what you're doing:

- Identifying with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection
- Setting a line of demarcation separating your past from your present and your future
- Leaving slavery and embracing a life of freedom in Jesus