



A Thought about Baptism (Galatians 3:26-27)

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“Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain **the salvation** which is **in Christ** Jesus with eternal glory” (II Timothy 2:10). Paul said salvation is **in**

Christ. With this fact in mind, let us honestly consider how the Word of God answers the question, “How does a person get **into** Christ?”

Paul wrote, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). Does a person become a child of God (or obtain salvation) at the very moment they have faith in Christ, without any further acts of obedience? Let us back up and note Paul’s use of the word faith in this passage. Verse 23 says, “But before **faith** {literally, the faith} came, we were kept {or bound} under the law {which refers to the Old Law of Moses}, shut up unto **the faith** which should afterwards be revealed.” Was Paul speaking of a person’s personal faith in this verse? If so, then no one had faith before the coming of Christ; however, this is easily disproven by Hebrews chapter 11. The word “faith,” refers to the Gospel System of faith every time it is used in these verses. In verses 24-25, Paul said the Old Law of Moses was for the purpose of bringing us to the Christ, and once we are under that new Law (the New Testament), we no longer are bound by the Old Law. At the end of verse 24, Paul said we are “justified by faith,” which implies obedience to the commands given in the Gospel.

Verse 26 explains how we are justified by the Gospel system; by being **in** Christ. Do not stop there, because verse 27 explains how we get **into** Christ. It is important to understand the difference between the prepositions “in” and “into.” “In” describes the location of something; such as, salvation (II Timothy 2:10) or forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7). “Into” describes movement. You cannot correctly say you are **in** the house until you first enter **into** it; you cannot say you are in a jacket, until you first put it on. No one can correctly say they are **in** Christ until

they first enter **into** Him or put Him on. How does the Bible say we do that? “For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**” (Galatians 3:27). Paul said that when we are “baptized into Jesus Christ, {we are} baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3-4) as we noted in our last article. Not one time does the New Testament say we have **faith into** Christ. No person can be in Christ, where salvation is, until they first have been baptized into Christ.

Now, are you honest enough to accept God’s command? Jesus commanded us to have faith in Him (John 8:24) and by that faith to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16). If you would like to know more about what to do to become a Christian, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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