



How to Correctly Interpret God's Word 4

Presented by Chris Rosebrough



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Class Premise

Sola Scriptura - The Bible is the inerrant word of God and the ONLY authority of truth and doctrine regarding the true worship of God

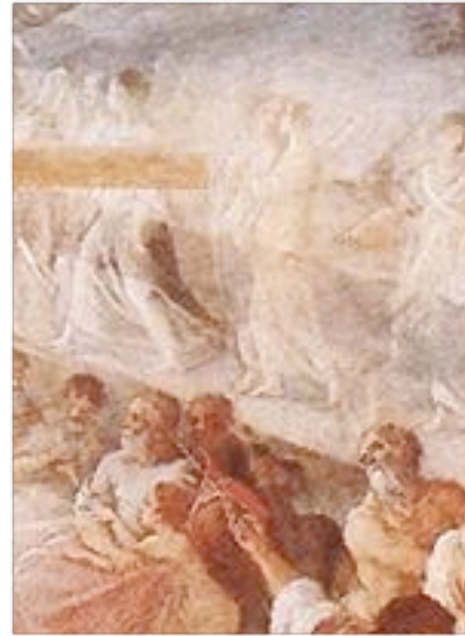
Solus Christus - We are saved through Christ's work Alone

Sola Gratia - We are saved by Grace Alone

Sola Fide - Through Faith Alone

Interactiva - The class is interactive, stop me and ask questions.





How to Properly Read the Bible

- ❖ An Introductory Series on “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”
 - ❖ Comparative Interpretations.
 - ❖ Look at passages on Baptism.

Historical Grammatical Theological

Theological

Rule #5 - To rightly understand and interpret Scripture is to necessarily distinguish between Law & Gospel elements in the text and then properly relate the former (law) to the latter (gospel). Justification by grace through faith in Christ is the res (main subject) of all true biblical and Christian theology.

The interpreter **MUST** see to it that his interpretation of the text has CHRIST as its center, teaches HIM, and glorifies HIM as Savior and Lord.

Pop Quiz Question

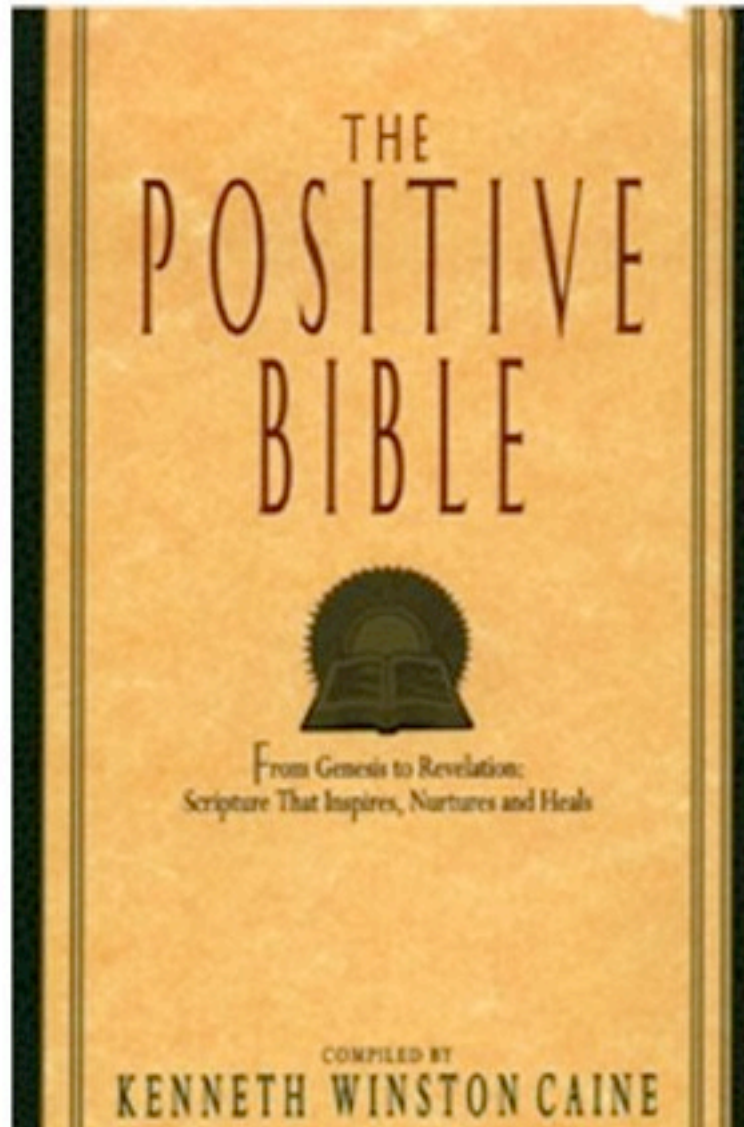
Thomas Jefferson 'edited' his own Bible. Does anyone know what the distinguishing characteristic was for the 'Jeffersonian Bible'?

The Jefferson Bible was called “The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth”

Jefferson wished to extract the doctrine of Jesus by removing sections of the New Testament containing supernatural aspects as well as perceived misinterpretations he believed had been added by the Four Evangelists. In essence, Thomas Jefferson did not believe in Jesus' divinity, the Trinity, resurrection, miracles, or any other supernatural aspect described in the Bible.

But he LOVED Jesus' the Moral Teacher.

The Sinless, Wrathless Bible



Turn to any page in this book. You will be greeted with a Biblical passage that offers hope, help, and encouragement. This collection of **advice, instruction, inspiration, assurance, and wisdom**, drawn from the King James, Revised Standard, New International, King James Modernized, and The Living Bible translations by scholar Kenneth Winston Caine, has the power and beauty to teach and comfort across the centuries.

Ponder just one passage or every one; browse this book at random or read it straight through. **Find a problem or question in the index of more than 250 everyday life applications of scripture-from healing to living through grief to nurturing a child- and you will be directed to Biblical wisdom that speaks precisely to you, as timely and relevant to modern culture as the evening newscast.** Here is your inspirational guide to the most remarkable of all books-condensed compendium of truth and knowledge that will enrich your entire family for years to come.

Comparative Interpretation

Romans 8:1-6: 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (ESV)



History: Written by the Apostle Paul to the Christian Church in Rome. Written in the summer of A.D. 51 or Spring of A.D. 52. Probably written in Corinth

Context: The general context of this passage begins with the gospel proclamation **that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. This passage announces the good news that what we were unable to do (perfectly keep God's law) was done for us by Christ. Therefore, Christians no longer walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Verses 5-8 describe the contrast and consequences between the life of the mind set on the things of the spirit and the mind set on things of the flesh (Sinful Nature).



Main Points from verses 5-8:

- 1. Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh.
 - 1.1 to set the mind on the flesh is death
 - 1.2 the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God
 - 1.2.1 the mind set on the flesh does not submit to God's law.
 - 1.2.2 the mind set on the flesh cannot submit to God's law.
 - 1.2.3 Those who are 'in the flesh' cannot please God.
- 2 Those who live according to the spirit set their minds on the things of the spirit.
 - 2.1 to set the mind on the spirit is life and peace



Interpretation

Christ has redeemed us and we no longer live under God's condemnation because of our sin and lawlessness.

The law of the spirit (gospel) has set us free from the law of sin and death (law).

Christ accomplished this FOR us.

Those who live according to the flesh (sinful nature) set their minds on the things of the flesh.

The mind set on the flesh IS DEATH. The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God and cannot submit to God's law or even please God.



The Law Done lawfully

Mankind suffers from total depravity and utter sinfulness. Humans have no ability to save themselves. Those who live according to the flesh (sinful nature) face death and judgement for they cannot please God. (Eph 2:1-3)

Christ as Center of Theology

Christ has saved us, redeemed us, fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law for us. Jesus Pleases God For US. In Him by faith we are no longer condemned.

The God Given Gift of Faith = the life of the spirit. (Eph 2:8-10, Gal 3:1-5)



Salvation by Faith

(‘Those who are in Christ Jesus’.
In other words those who trust in
Christ’s finished work for
salvation instead of themselves
their good works & law keeping)

=

**setting your mind
on the spirit.**





Many people try to use God for their own self-actualization. They want God to be a personal “genie” who serves their self-centered desires. But that is a reversal of nature and is doomed to failure. You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for his purposes, not your using him for your own purposes. **The Bible says, “Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life.”** (Rom 8:6 - The Message)

Day 1 - The Purpose Driven Life

Warren

The Bible says,

“Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life.”

A Good Translation

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 **To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.

Bad Translation - This is actually taken from the Message Paraphrase.

Mind Set on the Spirit vs. Mind Set on the Flesh
Attention to God vs. Obsession with Self

Obsession with Self < Mind Set on the Flesh
Attention to God ≠ Mind Set on the Spirit

Warren ignores the Immediate Context of the verse.

No mention of sin...or the righteous requirements of God's law...or Christ's perfect keeping of the law **for us**.

No clarification on what it means to have your mind set on things of the spirit (those who live by faith).

Taken from its context **and put into another** the passage switches from being Christ-Centered to Man-Centered, as a result Warren uses the law 'unlawfully'.

Paying attention to God (a work that we do) leads us into the open and a spacious and free life.





I have read many books that suggest ways to discover the purpose of my life. All of them could be classified as “self-help” books because they approach the subject from a self-centered viewpoint. Self-help books, even Christian ones, usually offer the same predicable steps to finding your life’s purpose: Consider your dreams. Clarify your values. Set some goals. Figure out what you are good at. Aim high. Go for it!

Of course these recommendations often lead to great success. You can usually succeed in reaching a goal if you put your mind to it. But being successful and fulfilling your life’s purpose are not at all the same.

You need more than self-help advice. **The Bible says, “Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way to finding yourself, your true self.”**

Warren

The Bible says,

“Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way to finding yourself, your true self.”

A Good Translation

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?



I want to talk to you today about living in total victory. A little over 2,000 years ago they crucified Jesus on the cross. They put him in the grave and they thought that was the end of it. But thank God on the 3rd day he arose.

He said, “Because I live, you shall live also.” He wasn’t talking about just breathing. He was talking about living an abundant life. Not a barely get by life. Not a life filled with bad habits and addictions and lack and mediocrity. No because of the price He paid we have a RIGHT to live in total victory.

Not partial victory to where we have a good family we have good health but we constantly struggle in our finances. That’s not total victory. If God did it for you in one area He can do it for you in another area.



He has paid the price so that we can be **TOTALLY FREE**. That means free from bad habits and addiction. Free from fear and worry. Free from discouragement and depression. Free from poverty and lack. Free from low self-esteem. You need to start seeing yourself the right way.

You are not a sick person trying to get well. You are a well person fighting off sickness.

The scriptures says in Ephesians 1 verse 4:

“Long before God laid down the earth’s foundation He had us on His mind. Because of the sacrifice Christ made we are free people and not just barely free but abundantly free.”

Osteen

The Scripture says,

“Long before God laid down the earth’s foundation He had us on His mind. Because of the sacrifice Christ made we are free people and not just barely free but abundantly free.”

A Good Translation

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.** In love 5 he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

What does the Bible Teach Regarding Baptism?

A Comparison of the Popular Evangelical Doctrine of Baptism to What the Scripture Teaches on the Matter.

The Typical Evangelical STATEMENT ON BAPTISM:

Our Evangelical Church believes Scriptural teaching on Baptism may be summarized as follows:

1. **Baptism is an act of obedience** to the command of Christ, **fulfilled by individuals** who have received His forgiveness and submitted themselves to His leadership.
2. **Baptism symbolizes** a heart washing by God's forgiveness and also an identification with Christ in His death and resurrection **as the individual dies to an old way of life and lives a new life in Him.**
3. **Baptism provides an opportunity for believers to make a formal profession of their faith before the church and the world**
4. Baptism is a biblical rite of initiation into the body of Christ, and it may therefore be considered a prerequisite for joining the membership of the church.

When Dialoging with Evangelicals about the Doctrines of Baptism

1. First set the grounds rules.

Agree that you should not believe any more or any less about Baptism than what Scripture says about it.

2. Understand that Evangelical beliefs regarding baptism are what they are because they are based upon 'reason' and a 'man-centered' view of salvation and sanctification.

Few if any evangelicals are familiar with the Biblical passages on this subject. Taking them through the passages has a tendency to 'rock their world'. Share them in love.

Make a Decision
For Christ



Get Baptized as an
Act of Obedience to
Show the World
You've Made a
Decision for Christ

Is This Found In The Scriptures?

Regarding Decisions for Christ

John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born not of blood, **nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.** (NIV 13 children born not of natural descent, **nor of human decision** or a husband's will, but born of God.

6:43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:65 And he said, "This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the **flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.**"

Acts 2:38 - From Peter's Great Pentecost Sermon

In Acts 2, Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, records for us the words of Peter's "Great Pentecost Sermon". During the climax of this amazing oration the Apostle Peter tells his hearers that they are guilty of crucifying Jesus. The passage tells us that upon hearing these words, those listening were 'cut to the heart' and asked the apostles what they should do? Verse 38 records Peter's answer to their question.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Question

- According to the text, what was the purpose of this baptism?

Saul's Baptism (bonus verse)

Acts 22:12 “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. 14 And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; 15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins,** calling on his name.’

The Answer to the First Question

Question: According to the text, what was the purpose of this baptism?

The Correct Answer: For the forgiveness of their sins.

Not sure? Re-read the verse.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ *for the forgiveness of your sins.*"

The Promises of Baptism

So far we've learned from God's Word that in our baptism...

- Our sins were forgiven. (Acts 2:38)

Into Jesus' Death

Now take a look at what the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote regarding baptism in his letter to the church in Rome.

Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Questions

- According to this text, what were we "baptized" into when we were baptized?
- What other verbs do these verses use in conjunction with Baptism?

Answers Regarding the Second Passage

Once again, if your answer contains words such as 'symbolizes' or 'represents', take them out. They're not in this passage either.

Question 1: According to Romans 6:3-4, what were we "baptized" into when we were baptized?

The Correct Answer: into Christ's Death

Question 2: What verbs do these verses use in conjunction with Baptism?

The Correct Answer: buried, raised, live

Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that *all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death*? We were therefore *buried* with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was *raised* from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may *live* a new life.

The Promises of Baptism

So far we've learned from God's Word that in our baptism...

- Our sins were forgiven. (Acts 2:38)
- That we were baptized into Christ's death. (Rom 6:3-4)
- We were buried with Christ in order to live a new life. (Rom 6:3-4)

Clothed With ?

The Apostle Paul wrote much more about baptism. Read what he wrote to the churches of Galatia.

Galatians 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Question

- According to this text, what were we clothed with when we were baptized?

Answer Regarding the Third Passage

Question: According to this text, what were we clothed with when we were baptized?

The Correct Answer: with Christ

Galatians 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ *have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

The Promises of Baptism

So far we've learned from God's Word that in our baptism...

- Our sins were forgiven. (Acts 2:38)
- That we were baptized into Christ's death. (Rom 6:3-4)
- We were buried with Christ in order to live a new life. (Rom 6:3-4)
- We were clothed with Christ. (Gal 3:27)

Not With Human Hands

The Apostle Paul packed these next two verses full of promises. You may need to read them several times to see them all.

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.

Questions

- According to these verses, what is Baptism equated with?
- Who is doing the circumcising?
- What other verbs are attached to Baptism?

Answers Regarding the Fourth Passage

Question 1: According to these verses, what is Baptism equated with?

The Correct Answer: Circumcision

Question 2: Who is doing the circumcising?

The Correct Answer: Christ himself

Question 3: What other verbs are attached to Baptism?

The Correct Answer: buried, raised

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.

The Promises of Baptism

We've learned from God's Word that in our baptism...

- Our sins were forgiven. (Acts 2:38)
- That we were baptized into Christ's death. (Rom 6:3-4)
- We were buried with Christ in order to live a new life. (Rom 6:3-4)
- We were clothed with Christ. (Gal 3:27)
- We were raised with Christ (Col 2:11-12)
- Our hearts were circumcised by Christ. (Col 2:11-12)

The Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch

Warning: The questions after this passage will be a little tougher.

In Acts 8, Luke records the account of the conversion and baptism of an Ethiopian eunuch. Here is the passage.

Acts 8:26-39 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

The Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch - Continued

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Questions

- How many people were present for this Baptism?
- What was the purpose of this Baptism?

Answers Regarding the Fifth Passage

Question 1: How many people were present for this Baptism?

The Correct Answer: The passage doesn't say. We know at the minimum there were three people; Philip, the eunuch, and the person he gave the order to stop the chariot. Notice that this was not a very 'public' baptism.

Question 2: What was the purpose of this Baptism?

The Correct Answer: Take what you've learned from the other passages and apply them here. We know that it was for the forgiveness of his sins, to baptize him into Christ's death, to bury him with Christ, to raise him with Christ, to clothe him in Christ and to have his heart circumcised by Christ.

The Baptism of the Philippian Jailer

In Acts 16, Luke records the events surrounding the conversion and baptism of the Philippian jailer.

Acts 16:25-34 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole family.

Questions

- What was the 'time' when this baptism occurred?
- What was the purpose of this Baptism?

Answers Regarding the Sixth Passage

Question 1: What was the 'time' when this baptism occurred?

The Correct Answer: Midnight or the middle of the night. Again notice that this baptism is far from public. Public baptisms do not normally take place at midnight. Notice also the baptism didn't take place in a church.

Question 2: What was the purpose of this Baptism?

The Correct Answer: Again, take what you've learned from the other passages and apply them here. We know that it was for the forgiveness of his sins, to baptize him into Christ's death, to bury him with Christ, to raise him with Christ, to clothe him in Christ and to have his heart circumcised by Christ.

Bonus Question: How can water do such great things?

The Correct Answer: Water can't do this by itself. But, water mixed with God's word can accomplish what it says it will accomplish, for it is God himself who said that it will.

Baptism Saves

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21

Baptism, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ**,