Water - cont.

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that the act of baptism puts one into a new, restored relationship (Matthew 28:19; John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Gala-tians 3:27; Colossians 2:12).

God Uses Water for PURIFICATION FROM SIN

In Numbers 19, the unclean Israelites could be purified (cleansed) with water. In Ezekiel 36:25, the citizens of the Messianic kingdom could be purified (cleansed) with water.

It should be no surprised to find in the NT that baptism purifies (makes clean by washing) by "washing away sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22).

The truth is, we have no right to for-bid the water of baptism to anyone who is in need of it (Acts 10:47). The Ethiopian Eunuch in the book of Acts was not hindered by the waters of baptism (Acts 8:36-39), and neither should you be hindered.

Yes, God uses water! Will you let Him save you, separate you, restore you, and purify you with water today? - Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

"For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost" - Luke 19:10 -

Jesus had a mission when he came to earth and it was to save mankind. But he also is seeking the lost. He is seeking you and me. Will he find you? Will you be found? Let Jesus find you so you can be saved.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The amount of water that God uses in our world is impressive. For example, the human body is approximately 2/3 water. About 60% of our weight is water weight. It takes about 2 1/2 gallons of water each day to live. It takes about 50 gallons of water per person for daily activities. About 100 billion gallons of water are used for crop irrigation each day. Water is most necessary for living.

The earth's surface is 3/4 water with 140 million square miles of oceans (330 million cubic miles of water). The earth's water is always used, but never used up.

Water is most necessary for our environment. About 800,000 gallons of water are needed to grow one acre of cotton. About 100 gallons of water pass through a full grown oak tree each day.

God has placed water as a necessary element in our physical world. But, He also has placed water as a necessary element in the spiritual realm of our life.

Sometimes you will hear someone say: "You all believe in water salvation!" This statement is often made by

our religious friends. They imply that they are saved by grace alone or faith alone, and that we (members of churches of Christ) believe we are saved by works and water.

The issue is not: Does water itself save? No, it does not. The issue is this: We are saved by God's plan and if that plan includes water (among other things like grace and faith), then I must submit to that water.

Baptism is not used by God "to join a church" and baptism is not used by God "to show that you are already saved". So, how then does God use water? Let us examine four purposes of water in God's plan of salvation.

God uses water for SALVATION FROM COMING JUDGMENT

In Genesis 6-7, Noah and his family built an ark and were saved by water from coming judgment because the water took them away from the death and destruction of all the world (see also Hebrews 11:7 and 2 Peter 3:5-6).

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that baptism saves (I Peter 3:20-21; Mark 16:16).

God uses water for SEPARATION FROM THE OLD LIFE

In Exodus 14, the Israelites were separated from the old life of bondage in Egypt when they passed through the Red Sea (see also I Corinthians 10:2). In Joshua 3-4, the Israelites were separated from the wilderness wanderings when they passed through the Jordan River.

In 2 Kings 21:14, Elijah was separated from his earthly life when he passed through the Jordan River. In Judges 7, Gideon's army was separated at the spring of Harod (see also He-brews 11:32).

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that baptism is the dividing point, or point of separation, between the old life of sin, and the new life of salvation (Romans 6:1-4).

God uses water for **RESTORATION FROM DEATH**

In 2 King 5:1-14, Naaman's skin of leprosy was restored after washing. In John 9:1-7, the blind man's sight was restored after Jesus told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. - continued