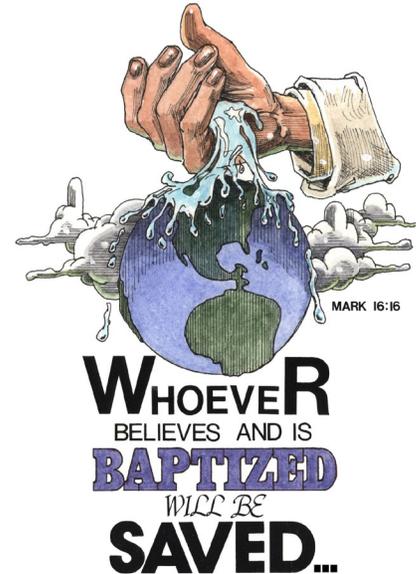


# Baptism

## A Resurrection

Quickly, without looking, sketch a mental image of the baptismal font in your church sanctuary. Where is the font located? Do artistic symbols decorate the font—symbols which convey the truth that miracles occur at the font? In the old churches of the Reformation, fonts were often massive structures located in prominent places within the churches. Those fonts were visual reminders that Baptism is a foundational tenet of our faith. Many fonts were constructed in the shape of an octagon. That shape conveyed a subtle but distinctly Easter motif. Counting Sunday as the first day, Jesus then rose on the eighth day. Perhaps you never thought of the octagonal baptismal font as a picture of Christ's tomb, but Scripture paints that picture.



The apostle Paul finds both Good Friday and Easter Sunday in Baptism. “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. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:3-5, 8, 11). Read all of Romans 6:1-14 in your Bible, and prayerfully ponder this miracle.

There is no question that Paul’s pen links Baptism to Christ’s tomb. His death is our death. Baptism is our burial. Our sins are buried and sealed up forever. No one, not our consciences nor even the Adversary (the devil!), can drag our sins out from that tomb of Jesus. But from that tomb the glorious news of victory is proclaimed. Remember what we just read in Romans chapter 6. “Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (verse 4). In another place Paul also wrote, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Through Baptism we say yes to Jesus and no to sin.

In his walk of faith, the Christian believer not only walks toward his future death and resurrection in Christ, but he also walks from his death and resurrection in Christ. Our baptism was our first burial and resurrection. Baptism offers the confidence, through Jesus, to face the next burial with the sure hope of the final resurrection.