

ELEVATE SALVATION & BAPTISM RESOURCE

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LETTER TO STUDENTS

Dear Student,

We are excited to partner with you in your decision to follow Jesus! We celebrate every Milestone Moment in your life and desire to help you navigate every part of your spiritual journey.

Choosing to follow Christ by praying to receive salvation is the most important decision you will ever make. We want to help ensure that you have a solid understanding of what it really means to invite Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and to devote your life to following Him.

Once you have given your life to Christ, your next step is to learn about water baptism. This is a significant step in your spiritual journey. It's very important for you to have a clear understanding of what water baptism symbolizes before you get baptized. We hope this is a helpful guide to make sure you have a great understanding of this important decision. Our hope is that this resource helps you gain a better understanding about salvation and leads you into a decision to become water baptized.

Honored to partner with you,

THE ELEVATE TEAM





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

CREATION

In the beginning, God created the world in perfection. He created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. They enjoyed fellowship with God. Then, they decided to disobey God's commands and brought sin into the world (this whole story is recorded in Genesis 1-3).

SIN

Sin separates us from God. Sin is anything we say, think, or do that goes against God's way. Our human nature is to sin because we're born in sin. The Bible makes it clear that every single person deals with sin. And the penalty for our sin is death - not just physical death, but spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THE CROSS

This is why Jesus came to earth. He lived a perfect, sinless life. At the end of his life, He died on the cross as our substitute. He took the penalty of sin on the cross so that we could put our trust in Him and have a relationship with God. Jesus died for our sins. Not only that, but he rose from the dead and lives forevermore.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

YOUR DECISION

The decision to follow Jesus is one that only you can make. It is a personal decision to turn from your sin and turn towards Jesus. When you surrender your life to Jesus, he forgives you of your sins and places His Holy Spirit inside of you to be with you forever.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

A SIMPLE PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God. I believe that on the cross, you took my sin, my shame, and my guilt; and you died for it. I believe that you faced hell for me, so I would not have to go; and you rose from the dead, to give me a place in heaven, a purpose on earth, and a relationship with your Father. Today Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin to be born again. God is my Father, Jesus is my savior, the Holy Spirit is my Helper and Heaven is now my home.... In Jesus Name, Amen!

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

Being baptized isn't what saves us. Rather, baptism is a symbol of our salvation and declaration of our faith in Jesus.

ROMANS 6:2-4 (MSG)

That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.

Baptism is a picture of what happens at Salvation. When we are saved, we die to our sin and are raised to new life in Christ. Going under the water is symbolic of dying to our sins; coming up out of the water is symbolic being raised to a new life in Christ.

Not only is baptism a symbol and picture, but it is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus. It is you declaring to others that you are committed to following Jesus with your life!

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Biblical baptism follows salvation.

(See Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 16:30-34) The example that we see in the Bible is people being baptized after receiving salvation. All throughout the book of Acts, we see the pattern of people coming to know Jesus, and then being baptized.

How do you know that you are ready to be baptized? If you have given your life to Jesus, you are ready for this step. Being baptized doesn't mean that you are perfect or have your whole life in order; it means that you have surrendered your life to Jesus and are committed to following Him.

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus.

(Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:18-2)

Jesus himself was baptized. He set the example for us. He asks all of us to be baptized as a symbol of our salvation and identifying with his death, burial, and resurrection.

HOW CAN I BE BAPTIZED?

We would love for you to take this step at Milestone Church during one of our Baptism Weekend Services. You can sign up at

www.milestonechurch.com/baptism.

