

***Living for Christ  
in a Hostile World***

***Studies in 1 Peter***

***Understanding Baptism***

***1 Peter 3.20-21***

# 1. A Powerful Picture of Salvation, v20

- ***The heart of humanity's problem*** Gen 6.5-6,13  
***the human heart – inclined to wrong*** Jer 17.9  
***self-determination – the essence of sin***  
→ ***self-centredness*** → ***selfishness***  
→ ***self-assertion*** → ***conflict***
- ***God's drastic solution*** Gen 6.7  
***destroy, and start again***
- ***God's gracious provision*** Gen 6.8  
***a rescue vehicle***  
***Noah was saved because judgement fell***  
***Noah was saved because he was in the ark***

# **1. A Powerful Picture of Salvation, v20**

- ***The eternal reality*** **Gen 6.8**  
***Jesus is our rescue vehicle*** **v18**  
***salvation is possible***  
***because judgement has fallen***  
**2 Cor 5.21; Isaiah 53.6**  
***salvation becomes personal***  
***when we place ourselves “in Christ”***  
**John 5.24**

## **2. A Powerful Symbol of Salvation, v21**

➤ *The flood and ark are an 'impression' of baptism*

➤ *The Bible's definition of baptism*

*what it isn't – a bath! John 13.3-4*

*but it symbolises moral cleansing*

*Acts 22.16; Is 64.6; 1 John 1.8-9*

*what it is – a pledge*

*our formal response to God's questions*

*Have you received Jesus as Saviour?*

*Acts 16.30-31*

*Have you committed yourself to him as Lord?*

*1 Peter 3.15*

*If so, demonstrate it by being baptised*

*Matthew 28.19*

## **2. A Powerful Symbol of Salvation, v21**

*we use our signature as our pledge*

*to show we have received something*

*we receive Jesus as Saviour John 1.12*

*and are committing ourselves to something*

*we live for him as Lord 1 Peter 3.15*

➤ ***Who is baptism for?***

*for those who have made the pledge*

*for themselves Acts 16.30-34*

*it's for everyone Acts 2.37-39*

*... who receives the message Acts 2.41*

*it is something personal*

*coming from a good/sincere conscience*

## **2. A Powerful Symbol of Salvation, v21**

- ***Baptism itself doesn't save us***
  - basis of our salvation: Christ's death***
  - proof of our salvation: Christ's resurrection***
  - means of making salvation our own: faith***
  - demonstration of our salvation: baptism***