

One of the most common reasons people give for failing to do what the Bible says is the effect they believe it will have on the fate of a loved one.

In one of my earliest years of teaching others the Bible, a young man said he couldn't be baptized because his grandfather, whom he loved dearly and who had recently passed away, believed that baptism was not necessary for salvation and had not been baptized.

Billy Joe thought that if he accepted the Biblical teaching that baptism was necessary for salvation he would have to admit that his grandfather had gone to hell.

1 Pet 3:21 And corresponding to that,
baptism now saves you- not the
removal of dirt from the flesh, but an
appeal to God for a good conscience -
through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ,

If the Bible says baptism saves you,
you can't be saved without baptism!

There is nothing that we can do to
affect the eternal reward of a
loved one. We can only affect our
own salvation.

The deeds we have done in this
life will accompany us to eternity.

There was a time when God punished the
children for the sins of the father,

Deu 23:2 "No one of illegitimate birth
shall enter the assembly of the LORD;
none of his descendants, even to the tenth
generation, shall enter the assembly of the
LORD.

Eze 18:2 "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'? (3) "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. (4) "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

but that time passed long ago.

Ezek 18:20 The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.

Heb 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed
for men to die once and after this comes
judgment,

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before
the judgment seat of Christ, that each one
may be recompensed for his deeds in the
body, according to what he has done,
whether good or bad.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

We have a record of one man
who died, went to his reward and
to his dismay could not return to
warn his brothers.

Luke 16:19 "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. 20 "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

22 "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

23 "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. ...

24 "And he cried out and said,
'Father Abraham, have mercy on
me, and send Lazarus, that he
may dip the tip of his finger in
water and cool off my tongue; for
I am in agony in this flame.' ...

25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' ...

27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, Father,
that you send him to my father's house—
28 for I have five brothers__ that he may
warn them, lest they also come to this
place of torment.' ...

29 "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 "But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

This occurred during the life of Christ and His Covenant was not yet in effect.

However, the same is true under the Christ's covenant.

Rom 2:5 But because of your
stubbornness and unrepentant
heart you are storing up wrath for
yourself in the day of wrath and
revelation of the righteous
judgment of God, 6 who will
render to every man according to
his deeds: ...

7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,

We cannot allow our love or respect for others to keep us from honoring the God of heaven, who gave his son that we might live.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Gal 1:8 But even though we, or
an angel from heaven, should
preach to you a gospel contrary
to that which we have preached
to you, let him be accursed.

We might illustrate my friend's predicament with the death of his grandfather who wasn't baptized with someone who didn't understand that if they used a life preserver, they could be saved from death by drowning. Who would say that a person who believed life preservers would save them but who drowned because he wouldn't put one on was an example to follow, regardless of their relationship.

John 11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?“

Would you have the word of God oppose itself by claiming Jn 11.26 contradicts 1Pe 3.21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as
have been baptized into Christ
have put on Christ.

Who would follow a man if he
believed life preservers (JESUS)
would save him but who drowned
(BECAUSE HE WAS IN SIN)
because he wouldn't put one on
(BE BAPTIZED) was an example
to follow.

Each of us must discover true
humility. Humility is often
confused with a quite and
unassuming demeanor, but this is
a mock humility.

Num 12:3 Now the man Moses
was very humble (KJV - meek),
more than any man who was on
the face of the earth.



True humility
requires a proper
knowledge of our
status in life, but
especially before
God.

The forces of nature
clearly demonstrate
that we are not
God's equal.

As we have seen the power of God
we must not be so arrogant as to
think that our decision not to be
baptized will reverse God's will so
that our Grandfather or anyone else
will be saved without doing what
God said!

Matt 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

What will your answer be? Will you be like the Pharisees who rejected Jesus during his life on earth or will you humble yourself and accept Him?

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'