

the passage can be used rightly in connection with the subject of water baptism only if water baptism signifies Spirit baptism.

- (b) Galatians 3:26-29 -- "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."

Verse 27 has been viewed as representing either the ordinance of baptism or Spirit baptism. However, if water baptism is opted for, some pointed questions must be asked. Does water baptism make us sons of God? Does it "clothe us with Christ"? Does water baptism make us all "one in Christ"? Does water baptism make us Christ's, Abraham's seed, and heirs of the promise? In an outward sense water baptism can "clothe us with Christ" and "make us Christ's", in terms of outward profession. But can professions of faith make us sons of God, and make us all one in Christ, Abraham's seed, and heirs of the promise? The answer quite definitely appears to be that only Spirit baptism can accomplish these spiritual realities. This passage can thus be used rightly in connection with the subject of water baptism only if the ordinance signifies Spirit baptism into union with Christ and with the benefits of His redemption.

- (c) Colossians 2:11-13 -- (the intricacy of this passage calls for a rather literal translation): "In whom (Christ) also ye were circumcised (1st Aor. Ind. Pass. of PERITEMNO) with a circumcision made without hands (or, not hand made) in (or, by) the putting off of the body of the flesh, in (or, by) the circumcision of Christ (or, by Christian circumcision -- a Genitive of characteristic), having been buried together with (2nd Aor. Pass. Part. Nom. Pl. Masc. of SUNTHAPTO) Him in (or, by) the baptism, in which also ye were raised up together (1st Aor. Ind. Pass. of SUNEGEIRO) through (or, by means of) the faith of the operation of God, the one raising (1st Aor. Act. Part. Gen. Sing. of EGEIRO) Him from the dead. And you (Acc.) being dead in the sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, you He made alive together (1st Aor. Ind. Act. of SUZOPOIEO) with Him, forgiving (1st Aor. Part. Nom. Sing. Masc. of CHARIZOMAI) us all the sins."

And with the mechanics removed we have the following:

"In whom also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by the putting off of the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried together with Him by baptism, by which also you were raised up together through faith in the operation of God, the one who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, forgiving us all the sins."