The Power in Baptism
1 Pet. 3:18-22

Introduction:
A. We hear much about the power in prayer, what about the power in baptism?
B. If there is no power in baptism then:
   1. Why were 3,000 baptized in one day?
   2. Why was a family baptized in the wee hours of the morning?
   3. Why have many broken ice in order to baptize?
C. Let us notice some facts about the power in baptism:

Discussion:
I. The Power of Baptism Is Wonderful.
   A. It saves (1 Pet. 3:21; Matt. 16:16).

II. The Power of Baptism Is Not in Itself.
   A. It not in the water (Cf. Naaman, Blind man)
   B. It is not in the action.
   C. It is in the authority of the raised Christ (vv. 21-22)
      1. He has all authority (Matt. 28:18-20).
      2. Baptism reenacts his death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-4).

III. The Power of Baptism Is Not in Itself Alone.
   A. It is a part of a package.
      1. Faith (Mk. 16:16).
   B. It changes nothing for the unbeliever or impenitent.

IV. The Power of Baptism Is Limited.
   A. It cannot remove future sins (Acts 8:13, 22; 1 John 1:7-9).
   B. It cannot guarantee eternal salvation (Rev. 2:10).
   C. It cannot re-write history (cf. Saul and Paul).
   D. It cannot remove all the damage of sin.
      2. Damage to others
      3. Damage to self.
         a. Physical damage.
         b. Reputation.
      4. Damage to relationships
         a. Friendships (cf. Paul and Barnabas)
         b. Marriages
      5. Removes condemnation (Rom. 8:1), but not consequences (cf. baptized poisoner)
   E. It cannot sanctify a sinful relationship
      1. Cf. Unscriptural marriages, polygamy, Shacking up.
      2. Would it have made Herod’s marriage lawful? (Cf. Matt. 14:4; Mark 1:4)

Conclusion:
A. Have you been baptized?
B. Have you fallen since being baptized?