

## Teaching Orthodoxy...using Bible Verses      Lesson 8:

**Baptism is a REAL event, worked by Christ Himself,  
A Free Gift of Grace with which we must Synergize (cooperate)  
We are not saved by the works of the Jewish Law,  
but Faith without works (our cooperation) is dead**

The Mystery of Holy Baptism is a **REAL event**, not just a nominalistic symbol. In Holy Baptism, the Apostles taught that **we actually “put on Christ”**.

For **as many of you** as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. Gal. 3:27 [“Baptized” = to submerge, dip, sink, wash]

In the **Holy Mystery of Baptism**, we participate in the victorious reality of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. We actually **UNITE with Christ**. We put HIM ON. **We put GOD on**. United to Him, His victory becomes ours.

We were therefore **buried with Him through baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life**. Romans 6:4

Having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him** through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Col. 2:12

I have been **crucified with Christ** and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20

In Him you were also circumcised with **a circumcision not performed by human hands**. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when **you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism**. Col. 2:11-12

This is **all free gift, a Grace**, a work by Christ, a Divine enablement, the Presence of God manifesting itself by an undeserved gift of Himself to us, to enable [to empower us] us to become His children. But **Faith** is needed.

The life I now live in the body, **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20

That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His **grace** in His **kindness** toward us **through Christ Jesus**. Eph. 2:7

For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the **gift** of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8-9

Certainly, the Jewish law and its “works” could **not** save us.

know that a man is **not justified by works of the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ**. So we, too, have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law no one will be justified. Gal. 2:16

But, then again, **without Christ** our God helping us, **we can do nothing** at all...not even breathe or live or move.

Christ: “**without Me ye can do nothing**.” John 15:5b

But, thankfully, with God, all things are possible.

And Jesus looking upon them saith, “With men it is impossible, but not with God: **for with God all things are possible**.” Mark 10:27

So **God works to empower** our salvation through a **rebirth**, through **union** with Him. He knows that we cannot do it by ourselves, **nor** can we do it by the Jewish law. So He comes to help us. But, **He also requires us to do something** along **with** Him: to work with the gifts of Faith and Grace that He imparts to us.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead** also. James 2:26

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith working through love**. Gal. 5:6

So we are commanded **to cooperate, to synergize, with God**. To use our free will to work with Him...to voluntarily combine our weak energy with His powerful Divine Energy. “**syn**” = “**together**” + “**ergy**” = “**work**”. Christ and the Apostles taught us to SYNERGIZE with God’s Grace.

**Work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is **God** Who **works in you** both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Phil. 2:12-13