



THE HESELSCHWERDT FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO EAST AFRICA

Personal Testimony

Before I came to understand baptism, salvation and the purpose of works, I used to believe that works would take me to Heaven, only to realize that I was wrong. First in baptism, we were taught that baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is not for infants. It takes you one step, which is believing in Jesus Christ only in order to be baptized. Jesus was our example of being baptized, and God was the One Who commanded us to be baptized. A person should be baptized immediately after he or she gets saved, not before. We should be baptized in a large body of water. We are not saved by works, and baptism is a work.

In understanding salvation, we were taught that when you have sins and trespasses, you are spiritually dead. I was guilty and worthy of punishment, and I was headed to the lake of everlasting fire. But the Scriptures overwhelmingly teach that people must believe to be saved and repent, but first we must hear. To repent is to have a change of mind. If you didn't believe in Jesus, then you do, trusting in Jesus Christ as your only way of salvation. Jesus proved me innocent, and God gave me everlasting life and sealed me with the Holy Spirit of promise. In short, He gave proof of me. God even gave me a new life as a new human being. God washed and sanctified me.

Last but not least is the purpose of works. Faith justified man in the eyes of God, while works justifies man in the eyes of other men. We are saved by grace through faith and not of works. *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us . . ."* Like Abraham—he was justified in the eyes of the Lord by faith. We love God, and that is why we do good works, also to bring glory to God. Our works are a demonstration of our faith. God chose certain good works for us to do. When we do good works, we are fulfilling God's purpose for our lives. For those who do works that God told them to do, they will be rewarded.

In all of these lessons we have been learning, I myself came to realize that it is not works and not baptism that get us to Heaven, but it is by believing in Jesus Christ ONLY as our way to Heaven.

Benta

SENDING CHURCH
Faith Baptist Church
4030 Kalmbach Road
Chelsea, MI 48118



MISSION AGENCY
FBMI
Missionary #201
507 State Street
Hammond, IN 46320

CONTACT INFORMATION
brandon.heselschwerdt@fbmi.org
517.513.5169
fbmi.org/missionary/heselschwerdt

