

# Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

## Introduction

1. I want to begin this lesson by saying that baptism is not an arbitrary act of the Christian faith as some may suppose or teach.
  - A. It is NOT discretionary!
    - 1) It is a command given by Jesus Christ and worthy of acceptance by those who love and seek to obey Him.  
**Matthew 28:18-20**
  - B. We see that by the command of Jesus Christ the necessity of baptism is declared and conveyed upon the whole world for the salvation of the soul!

## Baptism is an Immersion in Water

1. We notice in the Bible that John said "I baptize with water....." (John 1:26). Scripture also records that "John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there" (John 3:23).
2. In fact "Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him" (Matthew 3:13).
  - A. The scripture goes on to say that upon being baptized "Jesus came up immediately from the water..." (Matthew 3:16).
3. A very detailed account of baptism is found in Acts 8:36-39.  
**Acts 8:36-39**
  - A. Baptism is a process of immersion, submersion and emergence! (Vines Expository Dictionary)

## Baptism is for the Remission of Sins

### 1. The apostle Peter instructed the multitudes on Pentecost in what they must do:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

#### A. Baptism is the response of an obedient heart toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 1) It is therefore necessary that one hears the gospel first and understand it (Romans 10:17; Acts 8:30-35).
- 2) Then and only then can one obey it!

### 2. The apostle Paul said it so plainly in Romans 6:17-18:

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. (18) And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

#### A. One must understand the terrible consequences of sin and the condition of one's soul in order to ask "what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

### 3. It was Jesus who commanded that "repentance and remission of sins be preached in His name among all nations..." (Luke 24:47).

#### A. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of life, a turning from sin to serving Christ. Repentance IS necessary for forgiveness of sins! (Acts 2:38; 3:19)

4. **Once we have determined to live for Christ, we publicly confess our faith in Him.** "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation..." **(Romans 10:10).**
  - A. **It is then, upon that good confession that we are immersed and our sins are all washed away! (Acts 22:16)**

## **Baptism is a Burial**

1. **The apostle Paul tells us that baptism must be a burial.**

Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death?** (4) Therefore we were **buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

2. **Before one is baptized they are dead spiritually.**

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (15) Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- A. **A death requires a burial! Please consider very carefully three things that are implied by the scripture's use of the term "buried."**
  - 1) **A burial requires that a person or thing be placed somewhere and covered up, therefore in baptism an individual is immersed or covered up in water.**
  - 2) **Dead people do not bury themselves, therefore it is necessary that someone else immerse the person being baptized.**

**3) We don't bury people who are alive!**  
**Colossians 2:12-13**

**3. Spiritually dead people are baptized (immersed), then they are made alive by the washing away or forgiveness of their trespasses (sins).**

**A. Only after emerging from the watery grave of baptism can one "walk in newness" of life (Romans 6:4).**

**1) Then and only then are we alive in Christ Jesus.**

## **Baptism is a Birth**

**1. Notice what Jesus said to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:**

John 3:5 ....Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

**A. Jesus again said to him, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again" (John 3:7).**

**2. Now let us notice very carefully the language of the New Testament where in the parable of the sower Jesus teaches us that "the seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11).**

**A. Peter continues with this thought in 1 Peter 1:23:**

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

**B. Peter adds in 1 Peter 2:2: "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."**

3. **At baptism we begin our walk in “newness of life” as babes in Christ! Baptism puts us “into Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27), making us “children of God” ..... “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29; Romans 8:16-17).**

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

## **Baptism is a Washing**

1. **The apostle Paul was told by Ananias:**

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

2. **In the Old Testament the priesthood in particular were required to make themselves pure and clean in diverse washings and rites of purification (Exodus 30:17-21; Numbers 19:7-22).**

- A. **These washings were necessary for them to minister in the sanctuary. The apostle John wrote:**

Revelation 1:5-6 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3. **In baptism, we are washed and become part of the "holy priesthood," the "royal priesthood," which is then able to offer up "spiritual sacrifices" and become part of a "holy nation." (1 Peter 2:5,9)**
  - A. **Then and only then can one enjoy the spiritual blessings which are in Christ Jesus and serve in the church of the living God.**
4. **The idea of a washing would not be complete without a study of Ephesians 5:23-32.**

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (26) that **He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**, (27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that **she should be holy and without blemish.**

- A. **The church is the bride of Christ! In Revelation 19:7 the scriptures reveal that "the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."**
  - 1) **One is not ready if they have not been washed in the water!**
  - 2) **At baptism, the betrothed believer is purified and united with Christ spiritually. You are married "to Him who is raised from the dead" (Romans 7:4).**
5. **When one is baptized, you are then washed from your sins and the Lord adds you to the church, the beautiful bride of Christ (Acts 2:47).**
  - A. **It is at this point that you are now called by a "new name" which is "Christian." (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26).**

## Baptism Now Saves Us

### 1. The Bible is very clear about the importance of being baptized into Christ:

1 Peter 3:20-21 ...in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. (21) The like figure whereunto **even baptism doth also now save us...."**

Luke 17:26-27 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: (27) They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

#### A. Notice the similarities! Just in the days of Noah and the flood, there is a certain lack of urgency, a disregard, an explaining away of the command of baptism.

- 1) Men everywhere are preaching and teaching a perverted and abbreviated plan of eternal salvation that cannot put anyone into Christ Jesus because it does not include immersion in water **FOR the remission of sins!**
- 2) Jesus made water a factor in salvation! It separates the righteous from the unrighteous, **it becomes such a wonderful and beautiful step in salvation for the obedient.**
  - a. **However, it becomes a point of contention and destruction for the disobedient! Just as it was in the days of Noah.**

## Conclusion

1. **Do you believe in Jesus Christ?**
2. **Are you a Christian – A Bible Christian?**
3. **The Word of God cannot be any plainer and you will respond to His words if you truly have an obedient and receptive heart.**
  - A. **One has to have help to misunderstand the clarity of what the scriptures teach concerning the necessity of baptism.**

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

4. **If you are not a Christian we urge you to study the holy word of God and do the things that are necessary to the salvation of your soul.**

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

