

BAPTISM 1

Conversion begins with faith that recognizes who God is and understands the gospel message. At that point, the seeker clearly sees their need for God (Sin), understands the power of the gospel to save them (Cross), and decides to turn to God and surrender, making Jesus Lord (Repentance). When the person you are studying with reaches this conviction, it is time to help them understand the gift of baptism. This study establishes the biblical truth of the role of baptism in salvation and how it impacts our relationship with God.

OPENING QUESTION: *What is the significance of baptism in a person's life?*

John 3:1-7

- What was Jesus trying to explain to Nicodemus?
 - You must be born of water and the Spirit to see (enter) the Kingdom of heaven.
 - Being born again, like being born, is a single event that takes place at a specific time.

Acts 2:22-24,36-40

- What did these people come to believe about Jesus?
 - Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead (22-24).
 - They were responsible for his death (v.37).
- What did Peter tell them they needed to do to respond?
 - *Repent* - turn to God, ready to do things his way, surrender, making Jesus Lord.
 - *Be baptized* - (Greek - baptizo) means "to immerse or dip."
- What is the significance of baptism?
 - *for the forgiveness of sins* - brings reconciliation in our relationship with God.
 - *receive the Holy Spirit* - God seals his relationship with us, giving us His Spirit.
- **Analogy:** a check means nothing unless it is signed. Baptism means nothing without faith and repentance. It is not a work to go cash a check! Baptism does not earn salvation by works, but it is part of God's plan for our salvation.

Romans 6:1-5

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
 - "All of us who were baptized" - everyone in the church at Rome was baptized.
 - "baptized into his death... buried" - they participated in Jesus' death and burial.
 - "as Christ was raised from the dead... we may live a new life" - shared in his resurrection.
 - Baptism is where someone's life intersects with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
 - "baptized into Christ" - baptism is how we get into Christ.
- **Summary of Romans 6:1-5**
 - We are dead in our sin as Jesus is dead on the cross.
 - We are buried in baptism as Jesus is buried in the tomb.
 - We come out to a new life the same way Jesus rose to life.

Baptized into Christ

The Bible never says you can

- *faith into Christ*
- *believe into Christ*
- *repent into Christ*
- *confess into Christ*
- *accept into Christ*
- *or pray into Christ*

The Bible ONLY says you can be baptized into Christ!

1 Peter 3:21

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
 - *“baptism now saves you”* – in the same way water separated the living and the dead during Noah’s time, it now separates the spiritually living and spiritually dead.
 - *“the pledge of a clear conscience toward God”* – baptism cleanses us before God.
 - *“It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* - Baptism is not a work, done outside of God’s grace. It is how we receive the saving power of the resurrection of Jesus.

Colossians 2:11-12

- What does this scripture teach about baptism?
 - Baptism is a work done by JESUS and not at all by human hands, not a work of men.
 - *“raised with him through your faith in the working of God”* – baptism requires faith in God’s work.

Acts 22:6-16

- How can you tell from this scripture that baptism was necessary?
 - Paul had seen Jesus, had spoken with Jesus, had fasted for 3 days, had completely changed his mindset towards Jesus (repentance), and even had his eyes miraculously healed. Yet, he still had not had his sins washed away.
 - *“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.”*
 - It was at baptism that his sins were washed away.

CONCLUSION

- What did you learn about the purpose of baptism?
- Have you ever been baptized like this?
 - Do you want to be baptized like this?
 - What is in the way of you getting baptized?
- When do you want to get baptized?
 - Urgency shows recognition of what baptism does for us!

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES

Matthew 28:18-20 – Baptism involves discipleship.

Mark 16:16 – *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...”*

Ephesians 4:4-6 – There is one baptism; baptism is one of the key teachings of the church.