

# Is Baptism Essential

**TEXT: Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. WHAT RESPONSE DOES GRACE DEMAND? IS FAITH AND LOVE ALL?
- B. WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM? **IS IT NECESSARY TO BE SAVED?**
- C. WE WILL LET THE BIBLE SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

## **I. BAPTISM IN THE GREAT COMMISSION.**

- A. JESUS MENTIONS BAPTISM( **Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16** ).
- B. BAPTISM IS INVOLVED IN BECOMING A DISCIPLE AND SALVATION.
- C. WHAT DID THEY PREACH UNDER THE COMMISSION ABOUT BAPTISM?

## **II. BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.**

- A. THE PREACHING OF PETER:
  - 1. **Acts 2:38**, Peter commanded baptism "for the remission of sins."
    - a. Does "**for**" mean "**in order to**" or "**because of**"?
      - *eis* (ice); to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time, or (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.). **Strong**.
    - b. Note that we find the same grammatical construction in **Matt. 26:28**.
    - c. In order to provide remission, not because remission already occurred.
    - d. In **Acts 2:38** baptism joined by the conjunction "and" to "repent."  
**BOTH ARE COMMANDED "FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS."**
  - 2. In **Acts 10:44-48**, Peter clearly **commanded** baptism (**in water**).
- B. THE PREACHING OF PHILIP( **Acts 8:5, 12; 8:35-38** ).
  - 1. In both cases, Philip "preached Christ."
  - 2. "Yet baptism was an immediate result."
- C. THE PREACHING OF PAUL.
  - 1. The conversion of Lydia( **Acts 16:13-15** )
    - a. Lydia gave heed to the things spoken by Paul, by being baptized!
    - b. **Acts 16:15**. How could Paul have judged her to be faithful to the Lord?
    - c. By her response to the command of the Lord concerning baptism!
  - 2. The conversion of the Philippian jailor( **Acts 16:29-33** ).
    - a. Paul told him he must believe on Jesus then spoke the word of the Lord.
    - b. In response to the word, they were *immediately* baptized!( **vs. 33** ).
  - 3. Paul's account of his own conversion( **Acts 22:10-16** ).
    - a. He was told to **go to Damascus to learn** what he must do.
    - b. He was **told was to be baptized** without delay( **vs. 22:16** ).
    - c. He saw the Lord and spent 3 days fasting and praying( **vs. 9-11** ).  
**BUT HE WAS STILL IN HIS SINS!**
    - d. Clearly Paul believed that baptism had a connection with his salvation!
  - 4. The conversions of **Acts** show the connection between baptism and salvation.

**Matt. 28:18-19    EXAMPLES OF CONVERSION    Mark 16:15-16**

|                     | BELIEVE       | REPENT           | CONFESS | BAPTIZED          |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| A. PENTECOST        |               |                  |         |                   |
| <b>Acts 2:14-41</b> |               | <b>vs. 37-38</b> |         | <b>vs. 38-41</b>  |
| B. SAMARIA          |               |                  |         |                   |
| <b>8:5-13</b>       | <b>vs. 12</b> |                  |         | <b>vs. 12, 13</b> |

C. EUNUCH

**8:35-39** vs. **36-37** vs. **37** vs. **38**

D. SAUL

**9:1-9** vs. **18,**  
**22:16** **22:16**

E. CORNELIUS

**10:34-46** vs. **43** vs. **48**

F. JAILOR

**16:25-34** vs. **31** vs. **33**

G. LYDIA

**16:11-15** vs. **14** vs. **15**

H. CORINTH

**18:8** vs. **8** vs. **8**

PREACHING + FAITH + REPENTANCE + CONFESSION + BAPTISM = SALVATION  
( **Rom. 10:14; Luke 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 3:27; 2 Tim. 2:10** ).

5. In all cases, baptism precedes salvation( **Mark 16:16** ).
6. In all cases, baptism is involved in becoming a true disciple( **Matt. 28:19** ).

**III. BAPTISM IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE EPISTLES.**

A. IN THE EPISTLES OF PAUL:

1. In **Rom. 6:3-8**, we learn that baptism:
  - a. Is a baptism and burial into the death of Christ ( **3-4** ).
  - c. That we might be raised to walk in newness of life ( **4-5** ).
  - e. Crucifies the old man, that the body of sin may be done away ( **6** ).
  - f. Frees us from sin ( **6-7** ).
  - g. Assures our living with Him ( **8** ).
  - h. Paul's remarks were to "as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus."
2. From **Gal. 3:26-27** we learn that baptism is:
  - a. Involved in the process of becoming sons of God by faith
  - b. The means by which we "put on Christ" (and so become sons of God).
  - c. Note again: "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ."
3. In **Col. 2:11-13** Paul taught that baptism is:
  - a. A "spiritual circumcision" in which sins are "cut away"
  - b. A burial with Christ, and also a resurrection with Him
  - c. Made effective "through faith in the working of God"
  - d. Where God makes us "alive together with Him, having forgiven you."
4. **If BAPTISM accomplishes all this, how can one say it is not essential?**

B. PETER COMPARES OUR SALVATION WITH NOAH'S( **1 Pet. 3:20-21** ).

1. Noah was saved by Grace ( **Gen. 6:8** ), Faith ( **Heb. 11:7** ), Water.
2. Likewise, our salvation involves grace, faith ( **Eph. 2:8** ), and water!
  - a. NOT that there is any cleansing power in the water!
  - b. For only the blood of Jesus can redeem us from sin( **Eph. 1:7** ).
  - c. God chose baptism as the point which He applies the blood.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION? WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?
- B. WE CANNOT EXPLAIN AWAY GOD'S PLAIN COMMAND.
- C. ALL THE BLESSINGS OF HEAVEN ARE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE OBEYED.
- D. WHAT IF ONE DECIDES NOT TO OBEY?( **Acts 13:46; 2 Thess. 1:9** ).

E. **Acts 22:16.**