

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The Bible teaches that baptism is an outward expression of your inward decision to trust Christ as your personal Saviour. Baptism itself doesn't save you. It simply shows other people that you have been saved. It is a lot like the symbol of a wedding ring. Wearing a wedding ring doesn't make you married. It shows others that you are married and identifies you with your spouse. Believer's baptism identifies us with Christ and His local church. You can become a member of a local church when you are baptized.

Romans 6:3-5 *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."*

Baptism is for people who have confessed their personal faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for salvation. That's why it's called Believer's Baptism. Baptism does not wash away sin. It has no saving power. It is a symbol of the Gospel. Also, there were no babies baptized in the Bible. Only those who freely accept Christ as their Saviour should be baptized.

Acts 8:35-38 *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."*

The word "baptism" means "immersion." In simple terms it means "to submerge." Biblical Baptism is by immersion in water after salvation. There was no one baptized by sprinkling or pouring in the Bible.

Baptism acts out your faith.




WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

There are five compelling reasons that every believer in Christ should be baptized by immersion in water after salvation. If you have accepted Christ but have never been baptized, you should choose to be baptized as soon as possible.

Here are 5 good reasons to get baptized right away:


1. IT IS COMMANDED BY CHRIST.


"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
Matthew 28:19


2. IT WAS MODELED BY CHRIST.


"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."
Matthew 3:13


3. IT IS PRACTICED BY CHRISTIANS.


"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." **Acts 2:41**

4. IT IS THE FIRST STEP OF OBEDIENCE.


"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
Acts 19:5

5. IT IS NECESSARY FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.


"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." **Acts 2:41**

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

In the Bible, believers were baptized as soon as they confessed Christ as Saviour. Follow the Biblical precedent and follow Jesus Christ in baptism at your first opportunity.

Acts 8:36-38 *"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."*

WHAT IF I AM NOT BAPTIZED?

Baptism is a privilege reserved for those who have been born again through faith in Christ. Baptism is not a burden for those who are glad they are saved. With all that Christ went through to save your soul, He could never ask too much of you. Upon salvation, a public profession of your faith should be made through public baptism.

Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for obedience to Christ. Refusing believer's baptism is telling Christ that you are ashamed of Him and don't plan on following Him. How sad! Jesus is not only our Saviour, but He is also our Lord. We should follow His leadership in all things beginning with baptism.

Luke 6:46 *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"*

James 4:17 *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*

John 8:31 *"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"*