

why the doctrine of “infant baptism” is false! A baby cannot believe, repent, confess, or consciously choose to obey God. How then can an infant be Scripturally baptized?

For baptism to be scriptural, it takes not only a willing subject, but the baptism must also be for a scriptural reason -- *“for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38)! If one was baptized for another reason, then this baptism is invalid. One cannot be taught wrong and baptized right!

## Conclusion

We could answer more objections folks have to Bible baptism. Yet, wouldn't it be easier for us to submit to the Lord? Jesus told His apostles, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:15-16). This is precisely what they did, and as a result of their teaching, about 3000 were saved in Acts 2:36-41. Following this, the message of Christ was spoken “daily,” and folks were saved “daily” (Acts 2:47). Though some mocked, there were honest folks ready to listen and obey the truth of God. Really, there is little difference between men of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and people today. Some will mock the Lord's ways today, while others listen and humbly accept the Lord's terms for salvation.

What kind of person will you be? If you have not obeyed the Lord's plan for salvation, do not put off the most important decision of your life! Stop fighting against the Lord's commands and submit to Him today (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8)!

- If you have any questions about this study or the church of Christ in general, please contact us. We would love to study God's word with you.
- If you would like a ride to our worship services, please call us at the phone number below.

**Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ....**



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### **Times of services...**

**Sunday:** 10:00 am  
(Bible classes for all ages)  
10:45 am (Worship)  
5:00 pm (Worship)

**Wednesday:** 7:00 pm  
(Bible classes for all ages)

### **Other opportunities for Bible study:**

- Correspondence Courses
- *“The Ancient Landmark”* Radio Program (101.5 and 103.5 FM WLBQ at 11:30 AM Sunday and 5:30 AM Monday-Friday)
- *“The Ancient Landmark”* (www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994)



# “Answering Objections To Bible Baptism”

Jarrod M. Jacobs

One of the most “controversial” subjects today is the subject of the necessity of baptism. Is it necessary for one to be baptized in order to be saved? What is the role of baptism? Is baptism something one does in order to be saved or because he is already saved? What is the truth?

In studying what the New Testament has to say about Bible baptism, we learn that:

- Jesus told the apostles to go teach all nations and to baptize men and women for the purpose of being saved (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16).
- On the first Pentecost after Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, devout men and women were told to *“repent and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38).
- In every case of conversion found in the book of Acts, those who were interested in following the Lord and wearing his name (“Christian”) heard God's word, believed in Christ, repented of their sins, confessed their faith in Christ and were baptized so that they would be forgiven of sins (Acts 8:5, 12, 35-39; 10:48; 16:30-34; 22:16, etc.).
- In the epistles of Paul and Peter, baptism is emphasized as a part of the Lord's plan for salvation (Rom. 6:16-18; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21; etc.).

Sadly, many teach doctrines contrary to the New Testament by denying that baptism is necessary. Let us take note of some of the more “popular” objections to baptism and learn the scriptural answer to those objections.

**1. “The Bible says *faith* saves you. How can one be saved by faith if baptism saves?”** One of the most common errors spread today is the teaching that assumes that salvation by faith means salvation by faith “only”! The Bible does not teach that there is any one thing that saves man. In fact, Mark 16:16 shows the relationship between faith and baptism: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . .*”! The only time in the Bible where we read about “faith only” or “faith alone” is when the Bible says that it does not save (Jas. 2:24)! Faith and baptism are not mutually exclusive to one another!

**2. “One can choose to be baptized by immersion, by being sprinkled with water, or having water poured on them.”** Though men teach this, the Bible does not. Bible baptism occurs when one is immersed in water for the remission of sins (Acts 8:35-39). In fact, the Bible plainly states that baptism is a burial (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12). Sprinkling water or pouring water on someone does not constitute “burying” one in water. Therefore, Bible baptism is not accomplished by sprinkling or pouring water on someone.

**3. “If one teaches he needs to be baptized to be saved, he believes in water salvation.”** This is a common accusation, but nothing could be further from the truth! There is nothing special or magical about the water. Christ is our Savior (Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Acts 13:23; Eph. 5:23; Phil. 3:20), and when we yield our lives to His, He saves us, not the water! When one lovingly

obeys the Lord’s command to be baptized (Mark 16:16), this is no more “water salvation” than it was “snake salvation” when the Jews were told to look upon the brass serpent to be saved from the poisonous snakebite (Num. 21:7-9). When a person is baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), this is no more “water salvation” than it was “water cleansing” when Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan River to be cleansed from leprosy (II Kings 5:1-14). One lovingly obeying the Lord and meeting His conditions for salvation (including baptism) shows that he believes that Jesus Christ is his Savior! If he did not believe, he would not do what Christ says to do.

**4. “I will be saved like the thief on the cross. He was not baptized.”** Such a statement is made based on a misunderstanding of the context and statements of Jesus from the cross. As Jesus was on the cross, one of the thieves begged, “*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom*” (Luke 23:42). To this person, Jesus responded, “*Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*” (Luke 23:43). A pivotal truth to Bible study is to remember the context. These events are all taking place *before* the New Testament came into effect. While Christ was on this earth, He could save folks based upon whatever conditions He chose, for “*a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth*” (Heb. 9:17). This is the reason why He saved the thief on the cross with just a statement; why He saved a woman who had washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair (Luke 7:38-48); and why He told one man to sell all his possessions to be saved (Matt. 19:16-20). Yet, following Christ’s death, we see the conditions for salvation are uniform! In every case of conversion in the book of Acts, folks believed on Christ, repented of their sins,

confessed their faith in Christ, and were baptized *for the remission of sins* (Acts 2:38; 8:5, 12, 35-39; 10:48; 16:30-34; 18; 19; 22:16; etc.)! There are no exceptions to this! Therefore, no one today will be “saved like the thief.” We are living under a different covenant than he.

**5. “The Bible says we are ‘saved by grace through faith,’ and that excludes baptism.”** Paul wrote the Ephesians saying, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph. 2:8-9). Does such a statement exclude baptism? By no means! Let us remember that the Ephesians first met Paul in Acts 19. As a result of these people hearing Paul preach, “*They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Acts 19:5). Paul later wrote those who had been baptized a letter stating, “*By grace are ye saved through faith!*”

“Grace” and “baptism” are not exclusive to each other any more than “faith” and “baptism” are! To be saved by grace declares that folks have been saved from sins, though they have done nothing to *earn* or *deserve* such salvation! Paul made clear that “*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom. 5:8). Christ’s sacrifice was made for all men (Matt. 20:28), and the facts are that when we humbly and lovingly obey what the Lord said to do (John 14:15), we are saved “*by grace through faith!*”

**6. “Any baptism is acceptable so long as one is immersed.”** This statement is sometimes used to justify denominational baptism. However, this statement is wrong. Why? It is because if we took someone against his will and immersed (baptized) him, this baptism would be invalid! God wants willing people to be His children, not those forced to do something against their will (Isa. 1:19; II Cor. 8:3, 12). This is but one reason