

What Is The Purpose of Baptism?

There is much confusion about what baptism is for. Many different ideas and beliefs concerning the function of baptism in God's plan of salvation have arisen. Let us see what the Bible teaches about baptism.

- ❶ **Baptism is a Commandment.** Jesus commanded, *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned"* (Mark 16:16). In Acts 10:48, Peter COMMANDED Cornelius to be baptized in the name of the Lord.
- ❷ **Baptism Removes Sin.** Peter said at Pentecost, *"Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38). Saul of Tarsus was told, *"Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name"* (Acts 22:16).
- ❸ **Baptism Puts One Into Christ.** Paul wrote, *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Gal. 3:27). In Romans we find, *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death..."* (Rom. 6:3-4a).
- ❹ **Baptism is for Believers.** Again in Mark 16:16, Jesus said, *"He who has believed and has been baptized..."* Before one can be baptized he must believe. This is why an infant cannot be baptized into Christ. Peter told the people gathered at Pentecost to *"repent and be baptized"* (Acts 2:38). Repentance of sins is required prior to baptism. A child is not capable

of believing and repenting as the Bible requires before one is baptized. A child has no need to repent.

- ⑤ **Those Baptized are Added by the Lord to the Church.** Following Peter's command to be baptized, Acts 2:38, three thousand people were baptized (Acts 2:41). Acts 2:47 says, "*and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" In 1 Cor. 12:13 we read, "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free.*"
- ⑥ **Baptism is a Burial (immersion).** Paul taught, "*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 the newness of life*" (Rom. 6:3-4). In Col. 2:12 it is written, "*Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*" Baptism is an immersion. Sprinkling or pouring is not Bible Baptism.
- ⑦ **Baptism Saves.** The apostle Peter wrote, "*And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (1 Pet. 3:21). Salvation comes after baptism, not before it. Jesus said, "*He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved...*" (Mark 16:16).

Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:5 that there was but "one baptism." This is water baptism. Baptism is important. Baptism is necessary. Baptism is not the end, but just the beginning of a life in Christ.

Have you been baptized as these verses teach?
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