

## When A Person Is Baptized

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by Bill Crews

### **When a person is baptized as God requires, or as the Bible teaches:**

1. He has *already* **heard the gospel (good news) of Christ**, so he has been taught, **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 18:8**. In the New Testament every instance of baptism is preceded by teaching.
2. He has *already* **believed that gospel**, thus he has already believed with all of his heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 15:7; 18:8; 8:35-38**.
3. He has *already* **repented of his sins against God**, for this repentance is both essential and precedes baptism, **Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 17:30**.
4. He has *already* **confessed who Jesus is, the Christ, the Son of God, our Lord**, and this confession precedes baptism, **Acts 8:35-38; Romans 10:9-10**.
5. He **receives salvation (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21), remission of sins (Acts 2:38)**. He has his sins washed away by the blood of Christ (**Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5; 7:14**). He enters Christ (**Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27**) and the spiritual body of Christ, the church (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). He dies to sin (**Romans 6:1-4**). He becomes a disciple of Christ (**Matthew 28:19; Acts 14:21**). He becomes a child of God (**Galatians 3:26-27**). He enters the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of Christ (**John 3:3,5; Colossians 1:13**).
6. He has **obeyed "from the heart" that "form of teaching (or doctrine)" unto which he was delivered (Romans 6:17-18)**. Just as Christ for our salvation experienced a death, burial and resurrection, so he has had a similar experience in dying to sin, being buried with Christ in baptism, and being raised to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-4**). Thus, it was the decision and desire of that person, done because he wanted to, done not to please any man, but God himself (**Galatians 1:10**).
7. It should be **a happy, joyous occasion (Acts 8:38)**. "'Tis done this great transaction's done; I am my Lord's, and He is mine. Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away." (From the song, "O Happy Day.")
8. He is *now* **ready to change his life because he has become a new creature, old things have passed away, and all things have become new, 2 Corinthians 5:7; Colossians 3:1-17**.
9. He has **a new master, Christ; self has been dethroned, and Christ has been enthroned in that person's heart and life**; his life is now committed to doing the will of Christ in all things (**Galatians 2:20; Matthew 16:24**). He is now the Lord's bondservant (**Romans 6:16-18**).
10. He has **begun a journey, embarked upon a voyage, entered a race, enlisted for life in an active army (2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)**.

**Please take the time to read these verses and to digest these thoughts.**

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