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## “Brethren, What shall we do?” Acts 2:37



Baptism is a subject that is much overlooked in the religious world. However, the Scriptures have much to say concerning baptism, and they make it clear that baptism is very important indeed. In fact, it is essential for salvation.

The first thing we must discover is the proper manner in which baptism is to be performed. Many religious groups baptize in many different ways: sprinkling, pouring or immersion.

Romans 6:3-5 says,

3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection

This let's us know that baptism is a burial. It is also very clear in the original Greek language, for the Greek word *baptizo* means to immerse.

But the question still remains as to why is baptism important?

Jesus died for the sins of mankind. Without His atoning sacrifice mankind is lost and without hope before an all-righteous Judge. This passage out of

Romans tells us that at baptism we are “*baptized into His death.*” In other words, we are buried into the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus Himself said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mk. 16:16).

In Acts chapter 2, Peter preached a sermon in which he convinced many of the people of Jerusalem that they had crucified their Messiah and that they were lost. They asked Peter a very important question: “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter replied in verse 38, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

According to Peter, a person must repent and be baptized for forgiveness. This is in accordance with what we have seen so far. He also says that a person would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit after baptism.

**You  
Must Be  
Born  
Again**

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## “And now, Why do you delay?” Acts 22:16

One night Jesus had a discussion with a Jewish leader. In John 3:3-5, He told this leader that:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

In order to be born again means that water and Spirit is involved. This is what Peter said in Acts 2:38. He told his hearers to be baptized (water) and that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Peter told them they must be born again.

Later on in the book of Acts, we meet a man named Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul. Jesus appeared to him on a certain road and told him to meet a man by the name of Ananias. It would then be told him what he must do (Acts 9:6). When he met Ananias, he told Saul, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Saul had seen Jesus personally, yet was told to

**Get up and be baptized,  
and wash away your sins,  
calling on His name.**

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be baptized in order to wash away his sins. This is consistent with everything we have seen so far.

As a matter of fact, as a person reads through the book of Acts it will be noticed that there is not one single person that became a Christian that was not baptized! It is important that we notice especially those Christians in the book of Acts. Acts is a history book and we are told how things were done as the Apostles set things in order. All of the Bible books AFTER Acts were written to people or Churches that were already Christians. We would not expect to see Paul telling the Church at Rome how to become Christians - they already were Christians!

There are many other Scriptures that teach us about baptism. In Galatians 3:27 we read "For all of you who were baptized into Christ **have clothed yourselves with Christ.**" In Colossians 2:11-14 we read:

*11* and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; *12* having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. *13* When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, *14* having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

In the Old Covenant circumcision set apart the people of God from the rest of the world. In this New Covenant baptism is the distinguishing characteristic. And also notice that it is at baptism that the benefits of having the "certificate of debt"

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nailed to the cross are given to us.

According to the Scriptures, baptism is the moment forgiveness of sin takes place. It is a burial into the death and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. It is at baptism that we are "born again." At baptism our sins are washed away, we become clothed with Christ and we have a spiritual circumcision.

Let us not make the mistake of thinking that baptism ALONE saves anyone. Baptism is simply an act of faith. It is an act of faith that puts us in a right relationship with our heavenly Father. We are saved by Faith! But that faith must be one that is more than just a belief in our mind alone. The Bible says that even the demons believe. But belief by itself is not enough. Remember, Jesus said that you must believe and be baptized to be saved. Peter said to repent and be baptized. We must do what the Scriptures tell us: Believe, Repent and be Baptized for the forgiveness of our sins, and we shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## Some Facts About

# BAPTISM

