

Baptism Scriptures

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Mark 1:4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance **for the forgiveness of sins**.

NOTE: John's baptism was preparatory, not final.

- 1) Not into Christ nor into His death
- 2) No gift of the Holy Spirit

John 3:3-5 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is **born again**." "How can someone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit**."

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes **and is baptized will be saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38-39 And Peter said to them, "Repent **and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift

of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."

Acts 19:1-5 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." (could be translated, "We had not even heard that the Holy spirit had been given.") And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and **be baptized** and **wash away your sins**, calling on His name.

Romans 6:3-8 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**? We were **buried** therefore **with Him by baptism into death**, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too

might walk in **newness of life**. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ**.

Colossians 2:11-12 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God**, Who raised Him from the dead.

1 Peter 3:20-21 God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, now **saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

". . . for the forgiveness of sins"

The aspect of baptism that has been debated most among so-called "evangelicals" relates to the purpose of baptism. Those who deny baptism's connection with salvation base their position on the idea that baptism is a work of man. The inspired apostle Paul, however, says baptism is the sinner's expression of faith in the working of God (Col. 2:11, 12). The former position has difficulty harmonizing the clear teaching of the apostles that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. They explain that "for" in this case means "because." In other words, we are baptized "because our sins have been forgiven." If it does mean "because" in Acts 2:38, as they affirm, it also has to mean "because" in other places where the same Greek construction is used. Let's see how that works at Matt. 26:28, where the same Greek construction is used. As He was instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus said to His disciples, "For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins**." None would affirm that Jesus died because our sins had been forgiven. All would agree that He died so that forgiveness of sins could be offered or for the purpose of washing away / covering / blotting out sin.

- According to the Bible, is baptism for the forgiveness of sins? Or is it to show that sins were already forgiven?
- If not for the forgiveness of sins, cite a Bible passage that provides another purpose.
- If baptism is not connected with salvation, the

- forgiveness of sins, what does Peter mean when he says baptism "now saves you?"
- Which of these passages indicates baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality?
- In which of the passages does it say that baptism is

Synopsis Summary

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. **Mk. 16:16**
... be baptized ... For the forgiveness of your sins, ... **Acts 2:38**
... Be baptized and wash away your sins, ... **Acts 22:16**
... baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death, ... **Rom. 6:3**
... baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **Gal. 3:27**
... buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, ... **Col. 2:12**
Baptism, which corresponds to this (Noah's family's salvation by the flood), now saves you, ... **1 Pet. 3:21**

Bible Examples

The Bible provides several examples of people becoming Christians. Read these accounts to learn what the Bible says one must do to be saved / become a Christian.
Acts 2 (Peter's inspired answer is in v. 38) Acts 8 (particularly v. 12-13, 25-39)
Acts 9:1-19 / Acts 22:1-16 Acts 10 Acts 16 (particularly vv. 14-34)

Questions

- subsequent to forgiveness or salvation?
- What gift is promised to accompany baptism? Can one be saved without this gift?
- According to Col. 2:12, who does the work in baptism?
- Using biblical language, what happens in baptism?