

Pertinent Thoughts About Baptism!

When Jesus was preparing to return to the right-hand of God the Father, He gathered His disciples together and instructed them about making disciples. He said, “While you are going, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of this age” (Matthew 28:19-20). Discipleship involved two things: baptism and teaching! Teaching is not difficult to understand, but what about “baptism”?

I. Let’s Blast Before We Build. *What Baptism is NOT!*

a. It is **NOT** a means to or necessary for salvation!

Some religious groups (churches) claim that baptism is a necessity to be saved and a person *cannot* be saved without being baptized.

• One of the verses they use to support their claim is:

Acts 2:38 — The word “for” (Greek, EIS) can be translated, “because of the forgiveness of your sins”. (cf. Matthew 12:41 = repented because of the preaching of Jonah).

(The renowned Greek scholars A.T. Robertson and Dana & Mantey show that this is a correct rendering of Acts 2:38.)

• Baptism **NOT** a means to or necessary for salvation BECAUSE:

Salvation is by FAITH ALONE! Period! It is NOT FAITH + baptism or circumcision, or joining a church, or eating the right foods, or etc.

Ephesians 2:8 —

Galatians 2:16, 21 —

Romans 3:20-22, 28-30 —

Romans 5:1 —

Baptism ALWAYS follows faith! This is also why we reject infant baptism.

b. It is **NOT** a POPULAR thing to do because “my friends are doing it!” It is **SERIOUS** and needs full **UNDERSTANDING!**

II. Now, Let’s Build. *What Baptism IS!*

a. It is the first act of **OBEDIENCE** in discipleship!

Matthew 28:19-20 —

The New Testament gives us several ways that true discipleship is evidenced but baptism is the first one!

(See also John 13:35; 1 John 3:14)

b. It is a statement of **IDENTIFICATION** with Christ!

Background of the word baptize, BAPTIZO.

The word BAPTIZO came out of the textile trade of that day, and referred the dyeing of a garment. Not only did the word mean to immerse, submerge, dip under, but it meant to identify with. SO, BAPTISM SHOWS THAT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED WITH AND ARE FOLLOWING THE ONE IN WHO’S NAME WE ARE BAPTIZED.

c. It is a **PICTURE** of what happened at **SALVATION**!

Romans 6:3-5 —

III. Now, Let’s Wrap Up. *What does this mean to me?*

This message begs the following questions:

- Have I been obedient to my Lord’s command to be baptized to show that I AM SAVED (Disciple)?**
- Am I living forth what I declared at my baptism?**
- Do you desire to be present when believers are being baptized to rejoice with them and encourage them in their life in Christ?**

