

Baptism : What, When and Who

Text : **Rom. 6: 1-18**

INTRODUCTION :

A. What is the most often repeated command in the New Testament ?

1. It is the command to love.
 - a. Love God
 - b. Love our brethren
 - c. Love our families
 - d. Love our fellowmen, even our neighbors, even our enemies.
2. The command to love is repeated more than 50 times in the New Testament.
3. Love is so strongly identified with Christianity that no one will deny its necessity.

B. What is the second most often repeated command in the New Testament ?

1. Though it is repeated every time someone is told how to become a Christian, many deny that it is actually necessary. ***It is the command to be baptized.*** (**slide #1**)
2. Baptism in water is referenced more than **60** times in the New Testament.
3. In the book of Acts it is included in every story of conversion to Christianity.
 - a. Faith is required ... **5** times (**slide #2**)
 - b. Repentance is required ... **3** times
 - c. Confession is required once ... **1** time
 - d. Forgiveness of sins is recorded ... **5** times
 - e. Baptism is required in **every** conversion in the book of acts.

C. Why do we specify “in the book of Acts ?” Context is essential

1. The scriptures can only be rightly understood in their proper context.
“Any text taken out of context becomes nothing more than a pretext.”
2. The four gospels were written to explain the origin of the kingdom.
 - a. They relate the story of the coming of the Messiah and of His redemptive work.
 - b. The gospels establish the verity of the kingdom, which is His church. ***Fulfilled proph***
3. The epistles were written to people who were already citizens of the kingdom.
Col. 1: 13 – For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
 - a. The first nine epistles were addressed to specific congregations or groups.

- b. The next four were addressed to individuals. (*Two preachers and a church leader*)
- c. The final nine are addressed to Christians in general.

** The point being that they were not being instructed how to become Christians, though recipients were sometimes reminded of things they did in their conversion.*

D. Thus, to understand how one goes about having his sins forgiven one must go to the book which tells about the salvation process, i.e., the book of Acts.

1. The book of the Acts of the Apostles is often called “*The Book Of Conversions.*”
2. So, where’s the most logical place to learn about becoming a Christian?
 - a. The entire bible is inspired of God, but the entire bible is not centered on the HOW.
 - b. For that reason the fact that every conversion in the book of Acts culminates in baptism is very significant.
 - c. It demonstrates that baptism, the second most often repeated command in the New Testament, is just as important to salvation as the first.

THUS, with this lesson we will take a brief look at :

(slide #3)

- What is baptism
- When one is baptized, what happens
- Who can be baptized

I. What is baptism ?

(slide #4)

A. The word “baptize” that we read in our English bible is not an English word.

1. It was transliterated from the Greek ... NOT translated.
2. The word is “ βαπτίζω ” ... Phonically it is *baptizo*
... Transliterated *baptize*

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3. Translated, it means “*to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge.*”

** a. It was used to describe the sinking of a ship, the washing of clothes, etc.*

b. Thus, after hitting an iceberg, the Titanic was baptized.

4. So we understand that baptism is being dipped under the water. (**Act 8:38, Mat 3:16**)

B. Baptism is a command of God.

1. Jesus commanded it.

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Matt. 28: 19 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

2. The Apostle Peter commanded it :

(slide #7)

- a. **Acts 2: 38** – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
- b. Compare ... **Acts 10: 47-48**

C. Baptism is obedience to a form of teaching about the gospel.

(slide #8)

1. **Rom. 6: 17-18** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Refer to text ... Vs 3-7)
2. **Notice** : The obedience must come from the heart, i.e., be motivated by faith.

D. Baptism is a surrender of one's self to Christ.

(slide #9)

1. **Rom. 6: 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.
2. **Compare** :
II Cor. 5: 17 – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(slide #10)

Point Review ... (slide #11)

II. When a believer is baptized, what happens ?

(slide #12)

A. When a believer is baptized, his sins are forgiven.

(slide #13)

Acts 2: 38 – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;

B. When a believer is baptized, his sins are washed away.

(slide #14)

1. **Acts 22: 16** – Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Notice : The one being baptized is calling on the Lord to remove his sins.

2. It is not the water that cleanses away sins at baptism, but the blood of Christ.

Rev. 1: 5 – from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

(slide #15)

C. When baptized, the believer is born again.

(slide #16)

1. **I Pet. 1: 3** – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2. Remember our text :

(slide #17)

Rom. 6: 4 – ... even so we also should walk in newness of life. (also .. **II Cor 5: 17**)

D. When a believer is baptized, he is placed into the body of Christ. (slide #18)

1. **Gal. 3: 26-37** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
2. This is important because salvation is “in Christ Jesus.” (slide #19)
II Tim. 2: 10 – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
3. Thus, when one is baptized into Christ, he is baptized into salvation.

E. When one is baptized he is saved. (slide #20)

1. **I Pet. 3: 21** – 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,
 2. When baptism puts one into Christ, it puts one into salvation.
 - a. This means he has a clear **conscience** before God.
 - b. ALL guilt is removed.
 3. Again, it is not the water that cleanses the conscience, but the blood of Christ.
Heb. 9: 14 – how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (slide #21)
- * One who is in Christ does not have to live with guilt, because the blood of Christ cleanses his conscience.

Point Review ... (slide #22)

III. Who can be baptized ? (slide #23)**A. One who has faith that Jesus is the Christ the Only Begotten Son of God. (sld #24)**

1. **Acts 8: 37** – Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
2. One who doesn’t know the gospel, understand it and believe it cannot be saved.
3. *If someone were to snatch you from the street and forcibly baptize you in the name of Mohamed, would you be a Muslim ? Of course not.*
 - a. *Likewise, babies who are baptized by others are not Christians.*
 - b. Babies do not have the ability to believe, to understand or to sin.
4. Jesus Himself said : “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
¹⁶ He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” **Mark 16: 15-16**
 (slide #25)

B. The believer must repent of his sins; then he may be baptized. (slide #26)

1. **Acts 2: 38** – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
2. **Acts 3: 19** – Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

(slide #27)

C. The believer must be willing to commit his life to Christ. (slide #28)

Luke 14: 27-30 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

D. When a believer is baptized, he commits himself to a stewardship from which he must never turn back. (slide #29)

1. **Luke 9: 62** – But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
2. **II Pet. 2: 20** – For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

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CONCLUSION :**A. It is the will of God that all men be saved. (I Tim. 2: 3-6 , II Pet 3: 9)****B. Jesus committed His life to our salvation and He requires we reciprocate in kind.****C. Baptism is an act of the believer’s commitment.**

1. It is a tangible expression of faith.
2. It marks the transition from being lost, “**having no hope and without God in the world**” (**Eph. 2:12**) to being in Christ, forgiven and saved from sin.

INVITATION :

If you are a believer who has repented of your sins and is willing to confess your faith in Jesus as the Christ the Only Begotten Son of God, you are invited to solemnize your relationship with Christ by being baptized into Him.

(slide #31)

Lesson Text :**Rom. 6: 1-18**

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **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, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. **10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, **13** and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

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EXAMPLES OF CONVERSION A Study Of Things Common To Conversions In The Book Of Acts					
PREACHING Hearing the story	BELIEVING	REPENTANCE	CONFESSION	BAPTISM	SAVED/SIN FORGIVEN
Pentecost Acts 2:14-41		37-38		38-41	38-47
Samaria Acts 8:5-13	12			12-13	
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	36-37		37	38	39 (Rejoicing)
Saul Acts 9:17-18				18	
Acts 22:6-14		15		16	16
Acts 26: 12-18	19	19-20		Observed above	
Cornelius Acts 10:34-38	43			48	
Jailer Acts 16:25-34	31, 34			33	30-31
Lydia Acts 16:13	14			15	
Corinthians Acts 18:8-9	8-9			8	
John's Disciples Acts 19:1-7	4			5	6-7