

What Is Baptism ?

Text : **Acts 22: 3-16**

A. This morning we have the opportunity to share in a very joyful occasion.

S#1.

S#2.

Rom. 12: 15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

1. We have a young couple who are going to be born again of the water and the spirit.
2. As they have drawn closer to each other they have also grown closer to God.
3. They have become one with each other; now they want to be one with God.
4. Along with the angels (*Luke 15:7*) we rejoice at their decision to be reconciled to God.

B. It is the will of God that all mankind be reconciled to Him.

S#3.

1. Sin breaks one's relationship with God and forms a barrier between them.

S#4.

Isa. 59: 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

2. The scriptures refer to those who are guilty of sin as being God's enemies.

S#5.

Rom. 5: 10 – For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

3. The work of every Christian is to carry God's message of reconciliation.

S#6.

II Cor. 5: 18-20 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

S#7.

S#8.

C. This message of reconciliation is of vital importance because everyone needs it.

1. People are born innocent, but every person every born will sin.

a. **Eccl. 7: 29** – ..God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices. **S#9.**

b. **Rom. 3: 10** – as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;

c. **Rom. 3: 23** – ... no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. The consequence of sin is a severed and hostile relationship with God.

a. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **S#10.**

b. **Eph. 2: 1** – And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,

D. We all stand only a heartbeat away from judgment. Heb. 9: 27 S#11.

1. Thus, it is imperative that we deal with our sins, but we cannot do it ourselves. S#12.

2. There is no sacrifice that man can offer to take away sins.

Heb. 10: 4 – For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

a. No animal is as valuable as a man.

b. No man can be without blemish of sin so no man can be sacrificed.

3. Thus, the only begotten Son of God gave Himself as a ransom to buy us back.

a. **I Tim. 2: 5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and S#13.
men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, ..

b. **Gal. 1: 4** – the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that S#14.
He might rescue us from this present evil age,

E. Because of this sacrifice, there is now salvation in Christ Jesus. S#15.

1. **II Tim. 2: 10** – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are S#16.
chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2. Speaking of Jesus the Apostles said :

Acts 4: 12 – There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under S#17.
heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

3. IN and only in Christ Jesus one can live without sin.

I John 3: 5 – You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; S#18.
and in Him there is no sin.

**F. Therefore, if one wants to be free from sin he must be IN Christ Jesus, S#19.
but how does one get INTO Christ ?**

1. Baptism is the act which places on **into** Christ. S#20.

Gal. 3: 26-27 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. Salvation is in Christ Jesus so when one is baptized INTO Christ he is baptized into salvation.

**G. Everyone sins, but I John told us that there is no sin in Christ Jesus so S#21.
when one is baptized into Christ, his sins are removed.**

1. **Mark 16: 15-16** And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the S#22.
gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

2. Salvation is linked to **two things** : **Faith and baptism.** (Remember : **Gal. 3: 26-27**)

3. The very first people to be added to the body of Christ were told they'd be forgiven.
Acts 2: 38 – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the of name Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **S#23.**
4. When Saul (Apostle Paul) was told how to be saved he was told.
Acts 22: 16 – Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’ **S#24.**
 - a. Paul told the Romans (10: 13) that
Rom. 10: 13 – for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 - b. Thus, baptism is part of calling on the name of the Lord.

H. Baptism cleanses one's conscience from the guilt of past sins. **S#25.**

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, **S#26.**
2. When God places one IN Christ he has been forgiven and is JUSTIFIED. **S#27.**
 - a. **Gal. 2: 17** – But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!
 - b. Justified = Just as if I'd never sinned. *Therefore, there is no guilt.*

I. Baptism does this by putting one in contact with the blood of Christ. **S#28.**

* **Euclid's Geometry: Theorems 1 & 2** : *Things equal to the same thing Are equal to each other.*

1. We saw in **Acts 2: 38** that **baptism** is for the remission of sins. **S#29.**
The **blood** of Christ cleanses man from sin.
Eph. 1: 7 – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.
2. We saw **Acts 22: 16** that **baptism** washes away one's sins. **S#30.**
The **blood** of Christ washes away sins.
Rev. 1: 7 – and 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,
3. We saw in **I Pet. 3: 21** that **baptism** cleanses one's conscience. **S#31.**
The **blood** of Christ cleanse one's conscience from the guilt of sin.
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?
4. *Therefore, baptism is the point at which the penitent believer appropriates the benefit of the blood Jesus shed on Calvary.*

J. There are three preconditions for Christian baptism.**S#32.**

1. Christian baptism is only for believers. *It is a faith response to the gospel.*

S#33.

a. The word “**Baptism**” simply means an emersion, dipping or sinking.

b. Jesus Himself established faith as a precondition to baptism.

Mark 16: 16 – He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

S#34.

c. Philip the evangelist told the treasurer that faith is a precondition to baptism.

S#35.

Acts 8: 37 – [And 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. Christian baptism is only for those who will commit to live the Christian life.

S#36.

a. Peter established repentance as a prerequisite to forgiveness, thus to baptism.

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;

S#37.

b. God is eager to save men **FROM** their sins, but H will not save them **IN** their sins.

3. Christian baptism is for those who are willing to confess their faith in Jesus.

S#38.

a. Jesus requires that all who will follow Him acknowledge him publically.

S#39.

Matt. 10: 32–33 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in Heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father ...

b. It was the practice of the early church to confess their faith before the congregation and before unbelievers as well.

I Tim. 6: 12–13 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

S#41.

With these truths in mind, we will now take the confession of these believers who have expressed their desire to be baptized into Christ.

Lesson Text :**Acts 2: 39-47**

39 “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” **41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; **45** and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 22: 3-16

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. **4** “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, **5** as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

6 “But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, **7** and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ **8** “And I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’ **9** “And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. **10** “And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.’ **11** “But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

12 “A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, *and* well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, **13** came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time I looked up at him. **14** “And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. **15** ‘For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. **16** ‘Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’