

Why We Believe Baptism Is Necessary For Salvation

By: Keith Welch

We believe baptism is necessary for salvation, but on what basis is our belief founded? It is important for any person or persons to know why they believe what they believe! It's important for us to know why we believe what we believe! Peter said, *"but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear"* (1 Pet. 3:15; ASV). The following is why we believe baptism is necessary for salvation.

Because Jesus Commanded Baptism. Jesus said, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."* (Mk. 16:16). The one who is saved in Mark 16:16 is the one who "believes and is baptized." Baptism is necessary because Jesus gave the command. Jesus is the One who possess all power and authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Jesus' authoritative voice commanded all men everywhere to believe and be baptized to be saved!

Because The Apostles Taught The Necessity Of Baptism. The Apostle Peter commanded the Jews in Jerusalem to *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38). It was the Apostle Peter who wrote, *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..."* (1 Pet. 3:21; KJV). The Apostle Paul commanded the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:33), the Corinthians (Acts 18:8); the Ephesians (Acts 19:5) and all who would call upon the name of the Lord to be baptized for the remission of their sins!

Because First Century Converts Understood The Necessity Of Baptism. Every case of conversion in the New Testament ended with the obedient believer being baptized. Read the book of Acts! The Jews in Jerusalem were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:41), so too Simon (Acts 8:13); along with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:38); and Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18; 22:16); and Cornelius (Acts 10:48) and Lydia (Acts 16:15); and the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:33); along with the Corinthians (Acts 18:8) and so too the Ephesians (Acts 19:5). These folks were baptized because they first heard the word of God preached and came to know that baptism was commanded by God and necessary for salvation and therefore complied with the command and were baptized for the remission of their sins!

Because We Are Baptized In Order To Obtain Remission Of Sins. The Jews in Jerusalem asked, *"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (Acts 2:37). Then Peter said to them, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:39). We are not saved before baptism! Jesus Himself said, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved..."* (Mk. 16:16).

Because We Are Baptized Into Christ Where Salvation Is. Paul penned, *"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ*

Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Tim. 2:10). Take note that salvation is in Christ. How does one get into Christ? A reading of Galatians 3:27 states, "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*" Unless one is baptized, he or she will remain outside the body of Christ and therefore in an unsaved condition.

Because Baptism Saves. Peter penned, "*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,)*" (1 Pet. 3:21; KJV). Pete said that baptism saves, read it!

In Baptism We Figuratively Contact The Blood Of Christ. Paul penned, "*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" (Rom. 6:3-4). John penned, "*and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.*" (Rev. 1:5). Jesus blood is said to wash away our sins! That blood is applied in baptism as we are baptized into His death and it was in His death that Jesus shed His blood!