

# The Purpose of Water Baptism

# Importance of Water

- **Ex.30:20, priest:** When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die.
- **Lv.14:8, leper:** He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean.

# Importance of Water

- **2 Chr.4:6, lavers:** He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in.
- **Mt.3:11, John:** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance...
- **Jn.3:5, water, new birth:** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

# Importance of Water

**Acts 8:36, eunuch:** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? **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. **38** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

**Eph.5:26, Jesus:** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

# Importance of Water

**1 Pt.3:20, Noah:** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

**1 Jn.5:6, Jesus:** This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood.

**Rv.22:17, Jesus:** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely

I. Baptism stands between  
the sinner and salvation

# Baptism stands between the sinner and . . .



I. Baptism stands between  
the sinner and salvation

II. Misunderstanding stands  
between sinner and salvation



# Naaman, 2 Kings 5

- 3: girl's information to man in need
- 5-6, king's letter, money...
- 6-7, king of Israel (ct. v.3 – prophet)
- 8, prophet (“the way...”)
- 9-10, clear instructions...
- 11, anger fail: unexpected, unscientific, humbling, test of faith. Pride took over...
- 12, human reasoning: (“better...”?)
- 13, lowly servants get it
- 14, went, washed, whole
- 15, now I know!

# 1. “Baptism is water salvation”

Naaman  
2 Kings 5

1. Water cured him? (10-12)
2. Healed w/o water? (13)
3. When cured? (14)
4. Who received credit? (15)

# Blind man, Jn.9

- 1: call to action: man in need
- 2: conclusion: 'Who sinned?'
- 3: correction (neither); opportunity to display power of God
- 4: charge (mission): work!
- 5: conclusion: 'He must be of God'
- 6-7: command. Precise obedience gave sight.  
[Jews would not believe what Lord said or did,  
or what the blind man said]

# 1. “Baptism is water salvation”

Blind man  
John 9

1. Water cured him? (7)
2. Healed w/o water? (7)
3. When cured? (11)
4. Who received credit? (30)

# Saul, Acts 22:16

- In Saul's conversion, Ananias was the only unbeliever here, not in Lord's plan of salvation, but in extent of salvation
- Saul simply obeyed without question – true faith and humility

# 1. “Baptism is water salvation”

Saul

Acts 22:16

1. Water saved him?
2. Saved w/o water?
3. When saved?
4. Who received credit?

## 2. “We are not saved by works”

Naaman  
2 Kings 5

1. Cured without obeying?
2. Did obedience earn his cure?

## 2. “We are not saved by works”

Blind man  
John 9

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## 2. “We are not saved by works”

Saul

Acts 22:16

1. Saved without obeying?
2. Did obedience earn his salvation?

### 3. “We are saved by faith”

- What is faith?
- Believe: “used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e. a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah — the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God – conjoined with obedience to Christ” – Thayer, 511

# Saved by faith

Naaman  
Blind man  
Saul

Without  
faith, what  
would they  
have  
done?

I. Baptism stands between  
the sinner and salvation

II. Misunderstanding stands between  
the sinner and salvation

**III. Test case: Mark 16:15-16**

Main sentence: *He...will be saved*

- If this were all, we might conclude *all people are saved unconditionally*
- Even if this passage implied universal salvation, we would need to confirm it with other passages
- Are there conditions? Yes: What “he”?  
“He who believes and is baptized”

# Consider word order

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved”

1. saved
2. believes
3. baptized

(hypercalvinism)

1. believes
2. saved
3. baptized

(protestant)

1. baptized
2. saved
3. believes

(catholicism)

1. believes
2. baptized
3. saved

(Jesus, Mk.16)

# Consider grammar

“Both acts [*belief and baptism*] would precede the future act [*will be saved*], and the meaning would be that the moment one comes to faith and baptism salvation would be his” (R. C. H. Lenski, 766)

He who believes and is baptized will be saved

# Gospel divides people into two classes

SAVED

Belief, baptism

Hb.5:8-9

LOST

Unbelief

Jn.3:18

Hb.5<sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. <sup>9</sup> And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Jn.3<sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



“Refusal of faith necessarily excluded baptism, since such persons despised the salvation offered in the preaching of faith” (Meyer, 204).

- No “faith” without baptism can save.

He who completes income tax forms and mails it will be refunded; he who does not complete it will pay a fine.

- No “baptism” without faith is valid.

Immerse a sleeping man...??

# Car dealer advertisement



“Whoever believes and is immersed in our pool will receive a new car”

Claim it on  
faith alone?

Dad got new car  
without getting wet?

