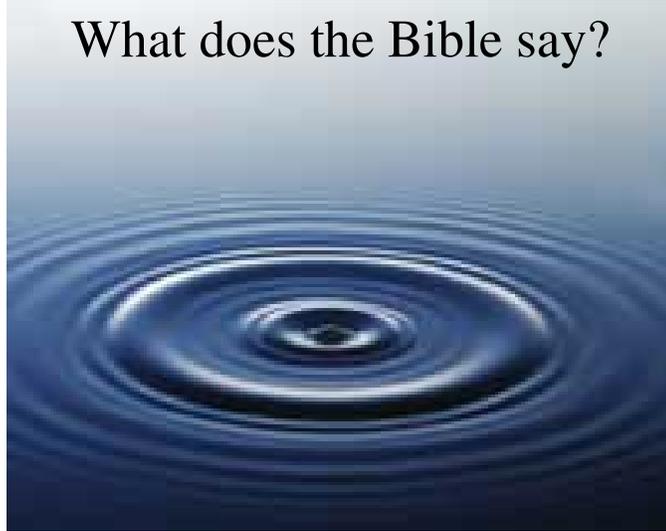


# About Baptism

What does the Bible say?



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## ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION

In this study, we are not looking at what men say about baptism, but rather what the Bible says about baptism. In all matters pertaining to salvation and the Christian life, the correct question is, "What does the Bible say?"

## JESUS' LAST WORDS

Among our Lord's last words are those recorded at Matthew 28:18-20. Please open your Bible to that passage and answer the following questions.

How much authority did Jesus claim to possess?

How much does that leave for any man?

When it comes to the question of baptism, therefore, whose word must be considered final and conclusive?

What are two things Jesus identifies as being involved in making disciples? See verses 19 - 20.

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## CONVERSIONS IN THE BIBLE

The New Testament book of Acts (The Acts of the Apostles) is the historical record of the beginning of the church. It includes several accounts of people becoming Christians. Examine the following Scriptures to learn how people became Christians according to the inspired apostles.

Please open your Bible to **Acts chapter two**. Verses 36-42 contain the conclusion of Peter's sermon and the response of those who heard it.

What was Peter's message? (v. 36)

How do you know the people believed the message? (v. 37)

What did Peter tell these people to do? (v. 38)

What are the stated results of baptism? (v. 38)

What did the people do? (v. 41, 42)

When did the people submit themselves for baptism? (v. 41)

Please read **Acts 8:26-39**.

What was the message Philip preached? (v. 35)

What did that message evidently include? (v. 36)

What evidence is there that the Ethiopian believed? (v. 36)

What did the Ethiopian believe? (v. 37, which may be in a margin or footnote)

How was the Ethiopian baptized? (v. 38-39)

Please read **Acts 9:1-18**.

How do we know Saul was not saved on the road to Damascus? (v. 6)

What did Saul still have or possess after he arrived in Damascus? (Acts 22:16)

What were Ananias' objectives? (v. 17)

1)

2)

How were these objectives reached or fulfilled? (v. 18)

1)

2)

What happens to our sins at our baptism? (Acts 22:16)

### **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

No one passage contains the entirety of what is involved in becoming a Christian. The Bible answer to the question of what one must do to be saved always starts where the inquirer is in his understanding or in the process of conversion. In Acts 2, for example, Peter does not begin with faith, for it was obvious his hearers believed the message. So he tells them to repent and be baptized.

So when you put all the conversion accounts together, you arrive at the composite answer to the question of how one receives the forgiveness of sins, or salvation.

1) H\_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:17

2) B\_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 11:6

3) R\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 3:19

4) C\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 10:32, 33

5) B\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Please read **Acts 19:1-5**.

What did believers do when they gained an understanding of baptism?

Please read **Romans 6:1-14**.

What saving events in Jesus' life does baptism portray? (v. 3, 4)

1)

2)

3)

According to the traditions and teachings of men, baptism may be administered in three ways — sprinkling, pouring, and immersion.

Which of these methods portrays a burial and resurrection?

Which is consistent with John 3:23?

Which corresponds to Jesus' baptism? (Matthew 3:16)

Which fits the description in Acts 8:38?

Please read **Colossians 2:11-12**.

On what occasion is the repentant sinner buried with Christ and raised up with Him?

Who does the work in baptism?

Please read **Galatians 3:27**.

When do we put on Christ? When are we clothed with Christ?

### THE WORD BAPTIZE OR BAPTISM

The English word "baptism" is not a translation of the Greek word baptizo, but rather a transliteration. That means that the Greek letters were merely changed into English letters. So what does the Greek word baptizo actually mean? What words would you use to translate it into English? Read what accepted Greek scholars say:

*A dipping in water* — Liddell and Scott

*Dipping, to dip, to immerse* — Arndt and Gingrich

*The whole person was immersed in water* — Kittle

*Immersion* — Smith's Dictionary

*To dip* (e.g., the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another) — Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

Answer the following questions in light of your study of the Bible.

Who should be baptized? (consider Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38)

How should a person be baptized? (consider Acts 8:28 and Romans 6:4)

Where should a person be baptized? (consider John 3:23)

When should a person be baptized? (consider Acts 2:41)

Why should a person be baptized? (consider Acts 2:38; 22:16)

What does a person receive at baptism? (consider Acts 2:38)

What do you need to do with regard to baptism?

### YOUR DECISION OR RESPONSE

Who do you believe Jesus to be?

Do you believe Jesus' claim to have the authority and power to forgive sin?

Do you have faith in His blood as the covering for your sin?

Do you believe Jesus will keep His promise to forgive / wash away / blot out your sin in response to your faith that is expressed by repentance and baptism?

Only one question remains: When is a good time for you to be baptized? Do the examples you have examined in your Bible indicate that you should wait? Or should you be baptized right now?