

# Questions about Baptism!

Matthew 3:1 In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region **round about Jordan**, 6 And were **baptized of him in Jordan**, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his **baptism**, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid

unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **11** I indeed **baptize you with water** unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: **12** Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. **13** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be **baptized of him**. **14** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? **15** And Jesus answering said unto him, *Suffer it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to **fulfil all righteousness**. Then he suffered him. **16** And Jesus, **when he was baptized**, went up **straightway out of the water**: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

1. Do I have to be baptized to be saved?

a. No external act is necessary for salvation

i. It is faith alone so that none of us can brag about anything [Romans 3:22](#) Even the righteousness of God **which is by faith of Jesus Christ** unto all and **upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: [23](#) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; [24](#) Being **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: [25](#) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; [26](#) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and **the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.** [27](#)

**Where *is* boasting**

**then?** It is excluded. By what law? of works?

Nay: but **by the law of faith.** 28 Therefore **we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.** 29 *Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:* 30 Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision **through faith.**

- ii. He counts faith as righteousness, not something that we do **Romans 4:5** But to him that **worketh not,** but **believeth on him** that justifieth the ungodly, **his faith is counted for righteousness.**
- iii. It is nothing that you can do in your body that gets you right with God **Galatians 2:16** Knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law,** but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we

have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be  
**justified by the faith of Christ, and  
not by the works of the law: for by  
the works of the law  
shall no flesh be  
justified.**

iv. It is not of you [Ephesians 2:8](#) For by grace are ye

saved through faith; and that **not of**

**yourselves:** *it is the gift of God:* [9](#) Not

of works, lest any man should boast.

v. Not my righteousness or goodness but His applied to

my life [Philippians 3:9](#) And be found in him, **not**

**having mine own righteousness,**

which is of the law, but **that which is**

# through the faith of

**Christ,** the righteousness which is of God by

faith:

- b. When Paul explained what the gospel is he didn't even mention baptism [I Corinthians 15:1](#) Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; [2](#) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. [3](#) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; [4](#) And that he **was buried**, and that he **rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

- c. Paul said he didn't even come to baptize but to preach the gospel [I Corinthians 1:17](#) **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the**

**gospel:** not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

- d. One of the proof verses that you must be baptized to be saved actually teaches the opposite [Mark 16:16](#) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he

**that believeth not shall be damned.**

- 2. Why the confusion and argument about what baptism means?
  - a. The word baptism is the translation of a word that means to strictly *dip, immerse* in water
  - b. It has always meant the same thing
  - c. Early church fathers practiced only immersion for baptism
  - d. Calvin and Luther recognized this but decided that they could substitute a symbol for the symbol since it was a

symbol

3. Who should be baptized?

a. There are no infants baptized any where in the New Testament

b. Every baptism in the New Testament is preceded by repentance and faith [Acts 8:12](#) But **when they believed** Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.

i. [Acts 16:30](#) And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?** [31](#) And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house. [32](#) And **they spake unto him the word of the Lord**, and to all that were in his house. [33](#) And he took them the same hour of

the night, and washed *their* stripes; and **was baptized**, he and all his, straightway.

ii. Acts 18:8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, **believed on the Lord** with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and **were baptized.**

c. Baptism is reserved solely for those people who have put their faith in Christ Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

#### 4. What is baptism?

a. It is a symbol or picture of what God has done in your heart and life Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- i. You are now dead to sin **Romans 6:2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
  - ii. You are buried with Him **Romans 6:3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
  - iii. You are raised to walk in newness of life **Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- b. Baptism is an outward revelation of an inward reality
  - c. Baptism is another way to publicly profess your faith in Christ Jesus **Matthew 10:32** Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. **33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
  - d. It is a testimony of your decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior

- i. It is a testimony of your turning from your sin and that you acknowledge that you have been forgiven by the grace of God
- ii. It is a way of identifying ourselves with Jesus Christ, His church, and what He did on the cross of Calvary  
**Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried **with him** by baptism into death: that **like as Christ** was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so** we also should walk in newness of life.
- e. It is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ **I Corinthians 15:1** Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; **4** And that he **was buried**, and that he **rose again**

## **the third day** according to the scriptures:

5. When should I get baptized?
  - a. We call it believer's baptism, so when you believe you should be baptized. In the New Testament they believed and were baptized immediately
  - b. You only get baptized when you are old enough to make your own decision and you do so fully realizing what you are doing and why
  - c. You only get baptized when you realize that salvation is purely by grace and you receive no merit, no points, no good works for being baptized
  - d. You realize that baptism is not essential for salvation but it is essential for obedience
  - e. You get baptized after you fully realize that you are saved
  - f. You get baptized by immersion even if you were falsely baptized some other way
  - g. You get baptized when you realize that water does not wash away sin, put you in the covenant, get you closer

to God but is simply a symbol of what has already happened in your heart

- h. You get baptized to publicly say that you love Jesus and have given your life to Him
- i. You get baptized when you want to say that you are leaving your old life and living a new life
- j. Being baptized as an adult is humbling yourself and saying that what Jesus wants from you is more important than your pride!