



What the Bible teaches concerning Baptism

Pastor Jeffrey S. Lynn

In this day with so many different teachings and beliefs coming from so many various sources it is of utmost importance to go to the only reliable source for the correct answer. The Word of God (The King James Bible).

The first time we see baptism in God's word is, **Matthew 3**, here we learn many things about baptism the first of which is that many people came to be baptized of John to "repent" and "prepare" for Christ's coming, a symbolic washing away of their sins and deeds. A cleansing.

What baptism is

1. A symbol: We believe based upon what Gods word tells us concerning baptism, that the act of baptism is a display of our being dead, buried, and risen with Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:12-15**
 - Dead- heading down to the grave
 - Buried- under the earth- note: why we believe in full submersion baptism Also note that both Christ after His baptism of John, and the Ethiopian eunuchs baptism by Peter that they came up out of the water, which would not be necessary for sprinkling.
 - Risen- Born again in Christ, lesson #4 Holy Living

Note: This is why when we baptize a person we ask, have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior? If they say yes we say upon that profession of Faith I baptize you in the name of the father son Holy Spirit, buried in likeness of His death raised to walk in newness of life.

2. A public statement or showing identifying an individual with Christ: **Romans 10:11**
3. Something that takes place AFTER an individual is saved, **Acts 8:36-39, Acts 10:47**
4. Something God expects of those who trust in Him, **Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:36-41**

What it is **not**

1. Necessary for salvation, **Luke 23:38-43**,
2. Sprinkling, as evidenced by the many cases where men came up out of the water after being baptized and the fact that it is a symbol of the death BURIAL and resurrection of Christ. You don't sprinkle dirt on a persons head to bury them.
3. For infants, remember baptism takes place only AFTER salvation and is you proclaiming outwardly what Christ did for you inwardly.
4. A source of salvation, neither is **Acts 4:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5**, if we could we saved by baptism why did Christ die on the cross? One extra tidbit: Jesus said "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." **John 14:6**. If Jesus Christ is the source of salvation and if baptism were necessary in order to be saved, then why did Christ never one time baptize anyone? Baptism does not make you saved nor is it required to keep you saved it is an act of obedience by the believer showing that they HAVE BEEN SAVED.

Why it matters what you believe about Baptism

- If people believe that they are saved because they got wet, they are headed for Hell. **John 14:6**
- Although not necessary for salvation baptism is one of two ordinances for the church set for by Christ, the other being the Lords Supper. It is an important step of obedience to the word of God and identifying yourself unashamedly with the Saviour Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here or are interested in obtaining more study materials please feel free to contact Pastor Lynn via email at Pastorlynn@crossroadsofslipperyrock.com