

BAPTISM HAS A PROSPECT

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The answer to this question about Bible baptism is found in the Bible. A man, an Ethiopian eunuch, believed the gospel and asked: Acts 8:36 *And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?* Then the answer is given: Acts 8:37 *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

A person is saved by grace through faith in the substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8,9). ANY person who has trusted in the sacrifice of Christ to pay for his sins is qualified for baptism. If you are SAVED, you SHOULD BE BAPTIZED. You do not have to finish a new converts course before baptism. You do not have to be a certain AGE to be baptized.

BAPTISM HAS A PRIORITY

WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

The answer from Gods word is: IMMEDIATELY AFTER TRUSTING CHRIST AS SAVIOR. In this passage, the converted man was traveling down the road in his chariot. They saw a body of water, stopped, and baptized him immediately. Acts 8:38 *And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.* In another place in scripture we read that two Christians were in jail for their faith, but while incarcerated they led the prison keeper to Christ. This occurred about midnight (Acts 16:25), but when the man got saved, Acts 16:33 *And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

Baptism is one of the very FIRST things a new Christian should do. If you have just believed on Christ, the devil will try to get you to put off being baptized. DONT LET SATAN WIN THIS INITIAL BATTLE IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE! Get baptized in the very next church service!

BAPTISM HAS A PICTURE

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED? Both the convert and the baptizer went down into the water: Acts 8:38 *And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.* The ONE CORRECT WAY of baptism is by IMMERSION. That is, the convert is put completely beneath the water.

1. It pictures JESUS CHRIST. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures (represented by the baptismal candidate crossing his arms across his chest as he stands in the water and being lowered backward into the water), was buried (represented by his being lowered momentarily completely beneath the water), and rose again the third day according to the scriptures (represented by his being raised back up out of the water to a standing position). Sprinkling and pouring do not adequately picture this.

2. It pictures THE BELIEVER'S EXPERIENCE. It shows he has trusted in that sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of Christ for his own salvation. It also shows his own death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life.

BAPTISM HAS A PRODUCT

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF BEING BAPTIZED? Unsaved people mistakenly think baptism saves them. Baptism does not save, but it is productive. Two immediate results are: JOY and OBEDIENCE. Acts 8:39 *And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.* When you get baptized after being saved, God will fill you with His joy. Additionally, you will have the assurance that you have been an OBEDIENT child of God.

SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED? YOU SHOULD DO SO IF ...

1. ... you have been saved but not yet scripturally baptized (by immersion). What are you waiting for?

2. ... you were baptized, but it was BEFORE you were truly saved. Baptism before salvation is a lie and is not valid.

3. ... you were baptized after conversion, but it was by an unscriptural method, such as sprinkling or pouring.

4. ... you were baptized by immersion, but it was done as part of a requirement for salvation (this false teaching is found among many groups, such as the Church of Christ, Christian Church, and most charismatic churches).

If one or more of the above instances applies to you, you should approach your pastor IMMEDIATELY and tell him that you wish to be baptized. May God bless you as you do Gods will for your life.



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Should You Be Baptized?

