

Baptism in the New Testament

It is clear from Scripture that baptism plays an important role in an individual's conversion. You probably also know from your own experience, that (unfortunately) baptism is a controversial subject in today's religious world.

Church's vary differently on:

- Why people are baptized (to be saved or as a sign that you are already saved)?
- Who should be baptized (repentant believers or babies)?
- When people should be baptized (as soon as possible after they come to faith or much later)?
- How should they be baptized (sprinkled or immersed)?

You will be encouraged to answer these questions after you have researched the Scriptures.

You can read a lot of books on the subject, but the best book is the Bible itself. Read the following Scriptures and note what they are saying about baptism. Then prayerfully draw your own conclusions.

1. New Testament Scriptures on Baptism

Matthew 28:16 – 20 _____

Mark 16:15 – 16 _____

John 3:3 – 8 _____

Romans 6:1 – 4 _____

I Corinthians 12:12 – 13 _____

Galatians 3:26 – 27 _____

Colossians 2:12 _____

Titus 3:3 – 8 _____

I Peter 3:21 _____

2. Examples of conversions in the book of Acts

Study each of these conversions and note what role baptism played in their conversion.

Acts 2:36 – 41 _____

Acts 8:1 – 25 _____

Acts 8:26 – 40 _____

Acts 9:1 – 19 (22:12 – 16) _____

Acts 10 _____

Acts 16:11 – 15 _____

Acts 16:25 – 34 _____

Acts 19:1 – 7 _____

Conclusions

NOTE: there are, of course, other extremely important topics related to conversion, topics such as grace, faith, repentance, confession, discipleship, etc. The focus on baptism in this study is not to imply that baptism is more important than any of these. But based on what you have read, how would you answer the following questions:

Why were people baptized in the New Testament? _____

Who was baptized? _____

When were they baptized? _____

How were they baptized? _____

What were some of the purposes and results of being baptized? _____

Ephesians 2:8 – 10 tells us that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works. How do you think baptism fits in with grace and faith? _____

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