

God Has Spoken Tract Series

Baptism & Salvation Mentioned Together: Which Comes First?

Is baptism a step in becoming a Christian, or a step to be taken after becoming a Christian? While some actually believe that baptism is not necessary at all, most people argue that a person should be baptized at an early date after becoming a Christian.

Those who teach that baptism comes after salvation usually reason from verses which teach of salvation, but make no requirement of baptism. While this may seem at first logical and sufficient, it really doesn't consider all the evidence. You might ask which is my car in the parking lot, and I might answer that it's the red car in the corner. I have said nothing about the make or model, nor how many doors it has, or whether it is a hard top or convertible. If you went to the parking lot and found two red cars in the corner, you would need more information - and you would know that more information is had been available if you had only asked for it. In order to be sure that you are right in your choices, you need to get all the information that is available.

The same is true with salvation from sin, entrance into Heaven, service and worship in the church, and any other topic found in the word of God. Even as it is possible to find passages mentioning salvation without baptism, so it is possible to find passages mentioning baptism without salvation. In the question whether baptism comes before or after salvation in the plan of God, one can get a much clearer understanding from a careful reading and study of all the passages that

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds
(Hebrews 1:1-2)

mention both. A concordance search revealed the following eleven passages of scripture that fit this description.

Matthew 28:19 – Go therefore, and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Mark 16:16 – He who believes and is **baptized** will be **saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Luke 3:3 – And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a **baptism** of repentance **for the remission of sins**,

Acts 2:38 – Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:41 – Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were **added to them**.

Acts 22:16 – And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized, and wash away your sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Romans 6:3-4 – Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**.

I Corinthians 12:13 – For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body** – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:27 – For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ**.

Colossians 2:12 – **buried with him in baptism**, in which you also were **raised with Him through faith** in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

I Peter 3:21 – There is also **an antitype which now saves us – baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
(All scriptures New King James Version)

God does not have to say a thing eleven times in order to establish that it is true. The modern argument that “baptism does not save us” stands directly opposed to the inspired text that “baptism doth also now save us” (I Peter 3:21, KJV). Man’s doctrine opposes God’s doctrine, but it cannot negate it. God’s answer will be the standard of judgment of every soul. This life is the only time we have to get it right. God has stated it right. It remains for every soul created in His image to trust Him, believe what He has said, and obey it while the opportunity is before us.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).



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