

Arlington Church of Christ

Baptism – Why and How ?

Following the Scriptural Trail



Various religious practices called “Baptism”?



The Greek Words for "Baptize" and "Baptism"

- The words are "baptizo" and "baptisma"...
- Note that the words "baptize" and "baptism" are not actually *translations* of the Greek words, but are *transliterations*
 - Transliteration means "the conversion of a text from one script to another"
- To prove the authentic meaning, we need to look to the authorities concerning the Greek language

Baptism comes from the Greek word BAPTIZO which means to dip, immerse or whelm, that is to cover WHOLLY with fluid or to dye a garment.

What Is *Baptism*?

Full Immersion

In the Name
of Jesus

Crucial to Salvation

All historians agree that the only method of baptism practiced by the early Christians was immersion.

The first mention of a variation was in 253 AD, when the Catholic church allowed a sick bedridden person to have water poured over them as an 'emergency substitution' for baptism. It was not practiced as the 'normal' method however, even at that time.

It was not until the council of Ravenna in 1311 AD that the Catholic church accepted into their doctrine the practices of pouring or sprinkling water on a person for baptism. But these things were men's ideas for convenience rather than God's instructions.

Most religious groups practice something they call baptism – but the reason behind it is widely disputed. Some see it as symbolic only, others as a way to remove the sin inherited from Adam, others as a sign that one is already saved, others say it is for church membership – but not essential.

The Bible presents baptism as the necessary and the only way to remove sins and gain salvation. Baptism is described as a ‘burial’ and the Greek word ‘baptizo’ literally means ‘to immerse completely’.

Follow the trail through God’s Word -

Mark 16:15-16

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Two things necessary for salvation – believing
(requires obedience, not just head knowledge)
And **baptism** (immersion)

1 Peter 3:20-21

to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Then in 2 Peter, the reference is again made to the flood of Noah destroying evil -

2 Peter 3:5-6

But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

Just as the waters of the flood of Noah destroyed the corrupt and evil of the world and cleansed it, so baptism now removes our sin and guilt and makes us cleansed also.

Acts 22:16 Saul was told:

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, **be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'**



What had Saul been doing before he was told to do this?

Acts 9:8-11

Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. (Fasting in repentance)

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.”

He was blind, fasting, repentant, and even praying for forgiveness and none of those things removed sins!

So he was told to be baptized and wash his sins away !

(Acts 22:16)

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

The word 'washing' is the Greek 'louo' which means 'to cleanse the entire body' with water (baptism)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. **But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

Titus 3:4-6

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,** ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Baptism takes away our sin and the Holy Spirit who is given at baptism (Acts 2:38) renews our spirit (gives us new life – “born again”)

John 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘**You must be born again.**’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

Romans 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



Crucified with Him



Buried with Him



Raised with Him

Colossians 2:11-12

In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. **Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,** ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Just as physical circumcision was a sign that a Jew was under the covenant given to Abraham (obedient to / dependent on God)– so baptism is the sign that we are under the new covenant of Jesus Christ (obedient to/ dependent on Christ)

Galatians 3:26-27

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.



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1 Corinthians 1:30

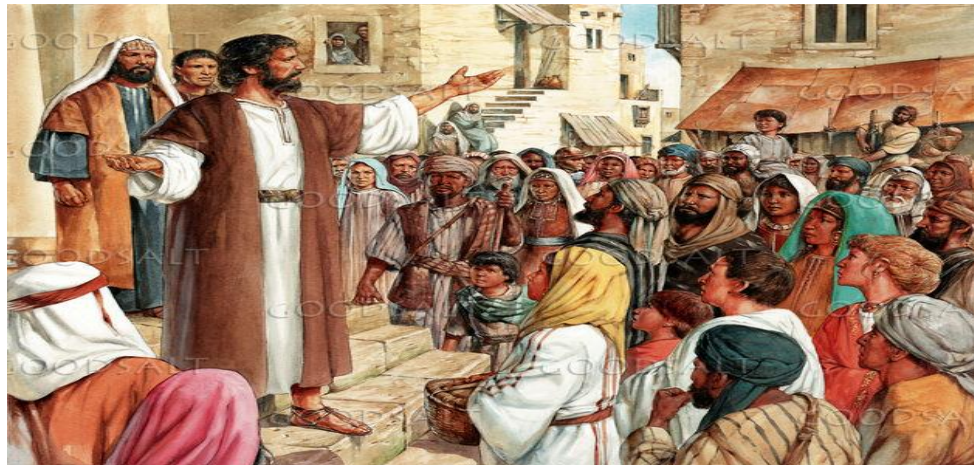
It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

God attributes the wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption of Christ to us.



Acts 2:37-39

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins.** **And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** ³⁹ **The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**



Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”