

Some Common Objections to Bible Baptism

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Introduction: You will not hear many that say they oppose baptism!

- A. The problem comes when we allow the Bible to define the subject, purpose and act of baptism that great opposition comes.
 - 1. Why is this so? Is the Bible not clear on the subject? No, God has made the way of salvation very clear. **(1 Tim 2:3-4)**
 - 2. The problem lies in the hearts of men who either will not search for the truth or have an agenda that they have placed above the truth. **(2 Tim 3:1-2, 7)**
 - 3. If you love the truth of God's word then be open to consider His choice on the matter.
- B. Whatever the Bible teaches about baptism there will be several things we will do in seeking the truth.
 - 1. We will seek out all verses on the subject. **(Mt 4:4)**
 - 2. We will draw conclusions about baptism in passages where baptism is mentioned.
 - 3. We will test our conclusions from examples found in the Bible.
 - 4. We will seek to bring all the Bible into harmony.
 - 5. We will not let the consequences of the truth nor the pressures of men turn us away from the truth! **(Gal 1:10)**

I. The Bible teaches we are saved by faith alone.

- A. What do you mean by "faith alone?"
 - 1. The bible says that we are not saved by "faith alone." **(Jas 2:24)**
 - 2. The bible does teach that we are saved by faith. **(Eph 2:8-9)**
 - 3. We must conclude that we are saved by a living faith, a faith that will obey. **(Jas 2:14-18)**
 - 4. The question to be answered is this: "When does faith save?"
- B. Some passages that are commonly used.
 - 1. Does **John 3:16** exclude baptism? No, because it would also by the same reasoning exclude repentance. **(Acts 3:19; Lk 24:47)**
 - 2. Did the jailer just believe? **(Acts 16:30-31)**
 - a. He had to be taught what to believe! What did he do immediately? **(Acts 16:32-33)**
 - b. When the jailer's actions were described, what had he done? **(Acts 16:34)**

II. The thief on the cross was saved without baptism.

- A. This cannot absolutely be proved! Could he have received the baptism of John? **(Mt 3:5-6)**
 - 1. This is however a possibility. How can this view be sustained?
 - 2. Jesus saved men in various ways while on the earth. **(Mt 9:6)**
 - 3. He was born, lived and died under the old law! **(Col 2:14-17; Heb 9:16-17)**
- B. Our concern is the baptism of Christ and its purpose.
 - 1. His baptism is into Jesus' death. **(Rom 6:3-4)**

2. How could the thief be baptized into Christ's death before He had died?

III. We should be baptized "because of" remission of sins, that is, we are saved first and then baptized.

A. Baptism is **for** the forgiveness of sins. (**Acts 2:38-39**)

1. There are two possible meanings of the English word "**for**".

a. It can mean "because of". **Example:** "John was hanged for murder."

b. It can mean "in order to receive". **Example:** "John worked for \$5.00 an hour."

c. Whatever Baptism is "**for**" in this verse, is what repentance is "**for**".

"**And**" is a coordinating conjunction which connects two equal ideas or thoughts together.

2. Anytime you find baptism and salvation or like blessing in a passage, baptism always occurs first.

a. **Salvation - (Mark 16:15-16, I Peter 3:21)**

b. **Forgiveness of Sins - (Acts 2:38; 22:16)**

c. **Being Born Again - (John 3:3-5)**

d. **Brought into Christ - (Rom 6:3-5; 1 Cor 12:13)**

e. **A New Life, Rejoicing in Salvation - (Rom 6:4; Acts 16:30-33)**

B. Why did Jesus die on the cross, as only a sign or in order to provide our forgiveness? (**Mt 26:28**)

IV. Those who claim baptism is necessary for salvation are preaching a works salvation.

A. There is a approach to God where a man tries to earn salvation (**Eph 2:8-9**)

1. If it were possible to be saved this way, a man could boast in his effort.

2. Some view salvation as an earnings from human merit. (**Rom 4:2-4**)

B. Some have concluded that any **conditions** of salvation must then be a **work of merit** and contrary to God's grace.

1. How did the walls of Jericho fall? Were these conditions contrary to God's grace and an attempt at human merit? (**Joshua 6:2-5; Heb 11:30**)

2. When one is baptized they do not look at God and say: "I have earned the right to my salvation! Look at what I have done." No, they simply are in faith receiving the gift of God based on His promises. (**Col 2:12**)

V. Are you saying that those who disagree with you are going to hell?

A. Why is this question asked? Do you want to know the truth or stir up prejudice?

B. Ultimately we must yield to God's word on the matter! Both sides of this question cannot be right. At least one position has changed the gospel.

1. God, not man, will be the final judge. (**2 Cor 5:10**)

2. What if we have preached a perverted gospel? (**Gal 1:6-9**)

3. Those who have a love for the truth will fervently try to correct those who are in error on this question rather than call them names and avoid them!

(**2 Tim 2:24-26**)

Conclusion: Have you been baptized into Christ? (**Acts 19:1-5**)