

Some Facts About Baptism

011118AM

Acts 8:5-13

- The chances are very high of encountering someone who misunderstands baptism.
- Some see little benefit in baptism, such as those who teach salvation by grace only, or by faith only.
- Others may expect more from it than the Bible reveals, such as those who were baptized as infants, or who see baptism as a sacrament.
- Studying a few things the Bible does say about baptism will help us teach others.

What Baptism Won't Do

- Simon was tempted; baptism does not eliminate temptation.
- 1 Cor. 10:13 – The appeal of sin does not vanish after baptism .
- Mat. 4:1-11 – Jesus was tempted after being baptized by John.
- Jas. 1:2-3; 12-15 – Christians will suffer temptation & are blessed if they endure it.
- Eph 6:11 – Temptation intensifies after we are baptized, because we then know it for what it is.
- Also with Simon, does not prevent future sin – Rom. 3:10, 23; 1 Jn. 1:8-2:1.
- Does not convert what was a sin before baptism into a non-sin afterwards; what is sinful on one side of the water is sinful on the other side...
 - **Repentance is still necessary** – Mat. 3:8; Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:20.
 - Repentance is demonstrated in a changed life – Gal. 5:19-26; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
- Baptism alone does not guarantee eternal salvation – salvation addressed as from past sins (Mk. 16:16) and as eternal salvation (1 Pet. 1:3-9).
- Many warnings about falling away – Acts 8:18-23; Gal.

5:4; 6:1; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-29; 2 Pet. 2:20-21; 2 Pet. 3:17.

- Rom. 6:4 – Baptism is not the end of a Christian's obedience, but the beginning!

Results at the Point of Baptism

- Remission of past sins – Acts 2:38; compare Mat. 26:28.
- Saved from the penalty of sin – Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.
- Added to the church by the Lord – Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13.
- Putting on Christ; being baptized into Him – Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27.
- Privileges of prayer, repentance, confession and forgiveness of subsequent sins – Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9.

Decision...

- Baptism is essential – no record of anyone after the death of the Lord being saved without it.
- Baptism “alone” cannot save any more than faith “alone.”
- Importance of baptism cannot be neglected because some may be offended.
- Baptism cannot be emphasized to the exclusion of faith, repentance and confession of Christ.
- As the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 3:21), sinners must be persuaded to the point that conscience demands baptism, to be converted.

