

Baptism

I. Introduction.

A. Baptismal Regeneration.

1. **Definition.** One must be water baptized to be eternally saved. Some even require one to be water baptized for the purpose of salvation or claim it is not true water baptism or saving baptism. Catholics, Church of Christ, and some other cults maintain this and often refer to it as a sacrament.
2. **Defense.** Believe a few difficult to understand verses (e.g. [Mark 16:16](#), [Acts 2:38](#), [1Pe. 3:21](#), and [John 3:5*](#), change the meaning of the clear gospel. They believe these verses require one to be water baptized to be eternally saved.

B. Baptismal Representation.

1. **Definition.** After one is eternally saved (Spiritual baptism), God commands believers to be water baptized to physically testify and pictorially represent what happened spiritually. This is commanded to believers as an act of obedience representing what took place spiritually at the point salvation. Protestants maintain this and refer to it as an ordinance. Gr: **baptizo**- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash) is the Greek root used for all 3 Greek words. All words for baptism are only found in the NT, though ceremonial washing, cleansing, and purification are strong pictures in the OT. Baptism physically pictures one identifying with Christ (includes His 1st Coming, His Death, His Burial, His Resurrection, His Ascension, and His 2nd Coming in power and life). As can be seen by the Greek word "**baptizo**" above, this spiritual baptism is best physically represented by being fully immersed in Christ (going into, under, up, and out of the water). That is why many baptizers state, "*Buried with Him [Jesus Christ] in the likeness of His death, and raised to walk in newness of life*" (cf. [Rom. 6:4](#); [Col. 2:12](#)).
2. **Defense. The Salvation Plan** from the beginning was and is completely apart from human works. It is trusting in God's provision alone. Faith in God's grace from Christ's finished work on the cross (not our works) is the only way to receive Salvation. Salvation is by faith alone and not any of our works, but only by Christ's work alone. It is "**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but**

according to His mercy, He saved us" (Titus 3:5). "8For by grace are you saved through faith; And that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Anything in addition to faith is a work. Thus, water baptism is a work!

- a. **"Be baptized" is a passive command**, something you allow to be done to you.
- b. **History** (Biblical). No one was ever water baptized to be eternally saved.
- c. **Why was Jesus water baptized** if water baptism is a requirement for eternal salvation? He certainly did not need to be saved. He is the Savior! Jesus got water baptized by unworthy John to identify Himself with John's message.
- d. How did **the thief on the cross** and other people go to heaven that never had an opportunity to be water baptized, if it was necessary for eternal salvation?
- e. Why does probably **the greatest evangelist** who ever lived (the Apostle **Paul**) say that he was NOT sent to baptize, but to preach the gospel—if the gospel includes water baptism? Paul under inspiration of God says, *"14I thank God that I baptized none of you... 17For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1Co. 1:14, 17-18)*. Certainly, if it were part of the gospel, Paul would have mentioned it at least once in reference to salvation, and not thank God that he did NOT water baptize.
- f. **Jesus did not water baptize anyone.** *John 4:2* says, *"Jesus Himself baptized not, but His disciples."*
- g. Baptism (**Spirit vs. Water**). Only a few verses mention baptism. Even fewer specifically mention water. Thus, the context must be used to determine whether a verse is referring to water or Spirit baptism. Spirit baptism is a simultaneous event with eternal salvation.
- h. Salvation (**Eternal**/Heavenly vs. **Temporal**/Earthly). Spirit baptism eternally saves giving us a heavenly home when one believes in Jesus Christ. Water baptism provides a more abundant life on earth by publicly confessing and obeying Christ's commands on earth.

- i. The Bible records **people who already received the Holy Spirit** (occurs at salvation), **prior to them being water baptized (Acts 10:47)**. Spirit baptism occurs at salvation and water baptism occurs after salvation to show others what spiritually happened at Salvation—Not before salvation as a meritorious work to obtain it. Spiritually at the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the body of Christ (**1Co. 12:12-13**) or buries us in the likeness of His death, and raises us to walk in newness of life (**Rom. 6:3-5**).
- j. **54/66 Books of the Bible never mention baptism.**

II. **Scripture** ("**Baptism**"-22 times, "**Baptisms**"-1 time, "**baptize**"-9 times, "**baptized**"-61 times, "**Baptizest**"-1 time, "**Baptizeth**"-2 times, and "**baptizing**"-4 times, are found a total of 100 times in 88 verses (KJV), all in the New Testament). Also, John the "**Baptist**" is referred to by name-15 times.

A. "**Baptism**" (22 times, all NT; Gr: baptisma- baptism).

1. **Mat. 3:7**—"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees **come to his baptism**, he said unto them, 'O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?'"
2. **Mat. 20:22**—"But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. **Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** They say unto him, We are able."
3. **Mat. 20:23**—"And He saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:** but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father."
4. **Mat. 21:25**—"The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, 'If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?'"
5. **Mark 1:4**—"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."
6. **Mark 10:38**—"But Jesus said unto them, 'Ye know not what ye ask: **can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**'"

7. **Mark 10:39**—"And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, **Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized.**"
8. **Mark 11:30**—"The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me."
9. **Luke 3:3**—"And he came into all the country about Jordan, **preaching the baptism of repentance** for the remission of sins."
10. **Luke 7:29**—"And all the people that heard Him, and the publicans, **justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.**"
11. **Luke 12:50**—"But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"
12. **Luke 20:4**—"The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?"
13. **Acts 1:22**—"Beginning from **the baptism of John**, unto that same day that He was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection."
14. **Acts 10:37**—"That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, **after the baptism which John preached.**"
15. **Acts 13:24**—"When John had first preached before His coming **the baptism of repentance** to all the people of Israel."
16. **Acts 18:25**—"This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John.**"
17. **Acts 19:3**—"And he said unto them, 'Unto **what then were ye baptized?** And they said, **Unto John's baptism.**'"
18. **Acts 19:4**—"Then said Paul, '**John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.'"
19. **Rom. 6:4**—"Therefore we are **buried with Him by baptism into death**; that like as Christ was **raised up from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also **should walk in newness of life.**"
20. **Eph. 4:5**—"One Lord, one faith, **one baptism.**"

21. **Col. 2:12**—"Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead."
22. **1Pe. 3:21**—"The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

B. "**Baptisms**" (1 time, all NT; Gr: baptismos- ablution [ceremonial or Christian], baptism, washing).

1. **Heb. 6:2**—"Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

C. "**Baptize**" (9 times, in 7 verses; all NT; Gr: baptizo- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash).

1. **Mat. 3:11**—"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."
2. **Mark 1:4**—"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."
3. **Mark 1:8**—"I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."
4. **Luke 3:16**—"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."
5. **John 1:26**—"John answered them, saying, 'I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not.'"
6. **John 1:33**—"And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the Same said unto me, 'Upon Whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.'"
7. **1Co. 1:17**—"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

- D. "**Baptized**" (61 times, 51 verses, all NT; Gr: baptizo- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash).
1. **Mat. 3:6**—"And **were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.**"
 2. **Mat. 3:13**—"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, **to be baptized of him.**"
 3. **Mat. 3:14**—"But John forbad Him, saying, **I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest thou to me?**"
 4. **Mat. 3:16**—"And **Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him.**"
 5. **Mat. 20:22**—"But Jesus answered and said, 'Ye know not what ye ask. **Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**' They say unto Him, 'We are able.'"
 6. **Mat. 20:23**—"And He saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father.**"
 7. **Mark 1:5**—"And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and **were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.**"
 8. **Mark 1:8**—"I indeed have **baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**"
 9. **Mark 1:9**—"And it came to pass in those days, that **Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.**"
 10. **Mark 10:38**—"But Jesus said unto them, 'Ye know not what ye ask: **can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**'"
 11. **Mark 10:39**—"And they said unto him, 'We can.' And Jesus said unto them, '**Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized.**'"
 12. **Mark 16:16**—"He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**"

13. **Luke 3:7**—"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"
14. **Luke 3:12**—"Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?"
15. **Luke 3:21**—"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened."
16. **Luke 7:29**—"And all the people that heard Him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John."
17. **Luke 7:30**—"But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."
18. **Luke 12:50**—"But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"
19. **John 3:22**—"After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized."
20. **John 3:23**—"And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized."
21. **John 4:1**—"When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John."
22. **John 4:2**—" (Though Jesus Himself baptized not, but His disciples,)"
23. **John 10:40**—"And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode."
24. **Acts 1:5**—"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."
25. **Acts 2:38**—"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
26. **Acts 2:41**—"Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

27. **Acts 8:12**—"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
28. **Acts 8:13**—"Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done."
29. **Acts 8:16**—"For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)"
30. **Acts 8:36**—"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"
31. **Acts 8:38**—"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."
32. **Acts 9:18**—"And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."
33. **Acts 10:47**—"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?"
34. **Acts 10:48**—"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."
35. **Acts 11:16**—"Then remembered I the Word of the Lord, how that He said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.'"
36. **Acts 16:15**—"And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, 'If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there.' And she constrained us."
37. **Acts 16:33**—"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."
38. **Acts 18:8**—"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."
39. **Acts 19:3**—"And he said unto them, 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' And they said, 'Unto John's baptism.'"

40. **Acts 19:4**—"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
41. **Acts 19:5**—"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
42. **Acts 22:16**—"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
43. **Rom. 6:3**—"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?"
44. **1Co. 1:13**—"Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"
45. **1Co. 1:14**—"I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius."
46. **1Co. 1:15**—"Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name."
47. **1Co. 1:16**—"And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other."
48. **1Co. 10:2**—"And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."
49. **1Co. 12:13**—"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
50. **1Co. 15:29**—"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"
51. **Gal. 3:27**—"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

E. "**Baptizest**" (1 time, all NT; Gr: baptizo- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash).

1. **John 1:25**—"And they asked him, and said unto Him, 'Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?'"

F. "**Baptizeth**" (2 times, all NT; Gr: baptizo- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash).

1. **John 1:33**—"And **I** knew Him not: but He that sent me to **baptize with water**, the same said unto me, Upon Whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is **He** which **baptizeth with the Holy Ghost**."
 2. **John 3:26**—"And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, **He** that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same **baptizeth, and all men come to Him**."
- G. "**Baptizing**" (4 times, all NT; Gr: baptizo- to make whelmed [fully wet, submerged, or buried], ceremonial ablution of Christian baptism, Baptist, baptize, wash).
1. **Mat. 28:19**—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
 2. **John 1:28**—"These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where **John was baptizing**."
 3. **John 1:31**—"And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am **I come baptizing with water**."
 4. **John 3:23**—"And John also **was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized**."
- H. ***Note: John 3** does not contain statements about water baptism nor any of the words for baptism. However, many confuse the "**born of water**" with a requirement for water baptism to be eternally saved. **John 3:5**, "**Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.'**" Born of water is clearly describing the physical birth. Jesus is clearly contrasting this first physical birth (being "**born of water**"), with the Spiritual birth (by only believing in Jesus to be Spirit-born and Spirit-baptized into God's family).

III. Application.

- A. Can anyone do anything to earn eternal salvation? How do you know?
- B. What is the only thing a person can do to be eternally saved?
- C. What is the most difficult objection to overcome by someone who believes water baptism is necessary to be eternally saved?