

After Repentance, What Next?

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

Repentance is not complete without baptism. The Bible teaches that we should repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38, Luke 24:47, Mark 16:16). Repentance and baptism go hand-in-hand. They should not be separated or divided. “They are experienced together, accomplishing God’s full work of forgiveness in the heart of the believer.” (Woodward, What Happens at Repentance.)

Believing leads to baptism.

- “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
- “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” (Acts 8:12).
- “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” (Acts 18:8).

The Gospels close with Jesus’ command to baptize all nations (Matthew 28:19). The first message preached by the apostles, on the birthday of the church, resulted in a command for everyone to be baptized (Acts 2:38) Therefore, water baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ. In the Early Church, people were baptized immediately after believing. Philip told the Ethiopian he could be baptized if “...thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest” (Acts 8:37).

Jesus expressed the importance of water baptism when he instructed Nicodemus, “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” (John 3:5).

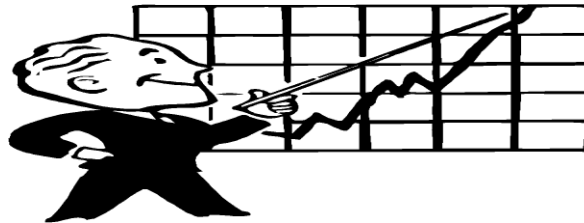
All Biblical accounts of baptism are by immersion. Jesus Himself set an example of immersion (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:4-5). The word baptize comes from a Greek word “baptizo” which means to dip, immerse, or plunge. Immersion is a big word but means to go completely under water.

- “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23).
- “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. And when they were come up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39).

- ☑ “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. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Romans 6:4-5).

Baptism is essential for salvation.

- ☑ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
- ☑ “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” (1 Peter 3:21).



HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Believing leads to water baptism by immersion and is essential for salvation.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Is this what the Bible teaches?			
Is this what you believe?			
Is this what your church teaches?			

Study Questions

1. Write in full, one Scripture (with reference) that supports each of the following statements.

1) Repentance and baptism go hand-in-hand. _____

2) Believing leads to baptism. _____

3) The Gospels close with Jesus’ command to baptize all nations. _____

4) Jesus Himself set an example of baptism by immersion. _____

5) The first message preached by the apostles on the birthday of the church, resulted in a command for everyone to be baptized. _____

6) In the early church, people were baptized immediately after believing. _____

7) Jesus expressed the importance of water baptism when He instructed Nicodemus.

8) Baptism is essential for salvation. _____

9) Immersion means to go completely under water, and is the Bible method of baptism.

Additional Notes
