**Baptism and Salvation**

**Introduction:**

There are many views on Baptism and Salvation today but only one that matters. God’s views on Salvation and Baptism. How do we find out what God’s views or teachings are on salvation? We have to study God’s word! So let’s look at what God says about baptism and salvation.

**Example 1**

In **John 3:5,** Jesus said to Nicodemus “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”**

**Doesn’t that make baptism essential to salvation?**

**Example 2**

**When Jesus gave the “Great Commission”:**

**The Great Commission**

 **16**  Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

 **17**  And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

 **18**  And Jesus came and said to them, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

 **19**  Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

 **20**  teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Doesn’t this make baptism essential to salvation? (Concerning verse 19)**

 **Matthew 28:16-20**

**Example 3**

**The Great Commission**

 **14**  Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

 **15**  And he said to them, **“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**

 **16**  Whoever **believes and is baptized** **will be saved,** but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

 **17**  And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

 **18**  they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

 **19**  So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

 **20**  And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.]]

**Doesn’t this make baptism essential to salvation? (Concerning verse 16). Concerning the second part of that verse—> Why would you get baptized if you didn’t believe?**

 **Mark 16:20**

**Example 4**

**Baptism is mentioned also in chapter 3 and verses 7, 12, 16, and 21…**

 **21**  Now when all the people were **baptized,** and when **Jesus also had been** **baptized** and was praying, the heavens were opened,

 **22**  and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

**Doesn’t this make baptism essential to salvation? (Jesus being also baptized in verse 21)**

 **Luke 3:21-22**

**EXAMPLE 5**

**Baptism is mentioned also in 7:29 also…**

 **29**  (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been **baptized** with the **baptism** of John,

 **30**  but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been **baptized** by him.)

**Doesn’t this make baptism essential to salvation? (Even when John was baptizing, people understood it was part of the essentials of salvation.)**

A set of **parentheses** is used whenever the translators identified a thought within a thought. Wherever **parentheses are** employed in your **bible**, it is possible to read the surrounding **verse** or **verses** without the words in **parentheses** and have it still make sense. ... Now read that same **verse** without the words in **parentheses**.

**EXAMPLE 6**

When Peter was preaching to the people on the day of Pentecost those who were convicted in their hearts that they were sinners asked (in verse 37 of chapter 2), **“Brethren, what shall we do?”** **Peter replied in verse 38 “…, Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (NASB)**

**Those who’s hearts had been cut or pricked by the word of God Peter was preaching were told to do 2 things:**

 **1. Repent —> a change of attitude and actions**

 **2. Baptized —> in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins**

**Those same hearts who acted and did the 2 things they were told to do were given 2 promises:**

 **1. You will receive forgiveness of sins**

 **2. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

**So at this point let me ask you a question, if you had been standing in the crowd that day and heard Peter preach the first Gospel Sermon, would you have understood what Peter was saying and would you have known what to do? Would you have responded the same way those who’s hearts were pricked by the word of God?**

**Would you have understood what repenting was and is today?**

**Would you have understood what being baptized was and is today?**

**The message that Peter preached that day was not just for those people at that time. How do we know this?**

**Peter said in the very next verse, verse 39, “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”**

**Those commands and promises were for those who were for all people, even those who were “far off,” the Gentiles of that day and the Gentiles of current times, all people all over the world until Christ returns.**

**EXAMPLE 7**

**When we look at the record of Saul’s (Paul) conversion in Acts 9 we read where he became a believer in Christ on the road to Damascus when Christ appeared to Saul.**

**What did Saul ask Christ (Acts 9:6) “What must I do” (NKJV) (other versions say “it will be told what you must do,” without the question from Saul (Paul) by Christ.**

**Ananias, a disciple of Christ, told Saul (Paul) what he must do after Christ told him to “enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do? (Acts 9:6)**

**In Acts 22:16 Ananias, the disciple came to Saul (Paul) in the city (Damascus) and said, “Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name”**

**Remember Paul was not saved on the road to Damascus when Christ appeared to him for 3 days Paul was still a sinner, but only after he was obedient to the instructions given to him by Christ and Ananias was he saved and a part of the body of Christ.**

**Doesn’t this make baptism essential to salvation?**

**EXAMPLE 8**

**In 1 Peter 3:21, Peter writes “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you,” Peter compared our salvation to Noah’s salvation and of course, his family, “were saved by water” in verse 20.**

**Just as Noah was saved by water, so are we today by the waters of baptism.**

**Remember, God was not saving Noah from the flood, by being obedient and having faith in God’s word Noah saved himself and his family by being a doer of the word. God saved Noah from a wicked world (Genesis 6:5ff), by using the flood God cleansed away all wickedness on earth.**

**Peter uses this example to show us that, just like that, the water of baptism saves one from the sins we have committed in our lives.**

**Noah landed on a clean earth when the waters receded and when we are baptized (totally immersed, being buried) in water, when we come up out of the water, we have been cleansed of sin as our sins have been washed away.**

**In every example above, baptism must be completed before anyone is saved.**

**Are you here today wondering what this is all about and wanting to know what you need to do to become a part of the Lord’s body and be washed clean of all your sins in your life?**

**THE PLAN OF SALVATION**

1. **You have HEAR the Word**

**2. You have to BELIEVE the word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**3. You have to REPENT of your sins.**

**4. You have to CONFESS that Jesus Christ is the SON of GOD.**

**5. You have to BE BAPTIZED for the remission of your sins**