

Baptism

What Does Baptism Mean?

The word "baptism" is not a word native to the English language. Therefore, it has no meaning of its own. The English word "baptize" is not a *translation* but a *transliteration*. Translation means to bring the meaning of a word from one language to another. Transliteration means to bring only the spelling over to another language. The Greek βαπτίζω is written in English as "baptizo" and transliterated "baptize". We must, therefore, go to the Greek for an understanding of the word's meaning. It is from the Greek root *bapto* which means "to cover wholly with a fluid or to stain as with a dye." The word was used of the smith tempering red-hot steel, totally submerging the steel in water.

What Baptism Is Not.

Baptism is not salvation! Salvation begins when one truly confesses (embraces) Jesus as Lord of his life and genuinely believes Jesus' death and resurrection to be his final and complete payment for sin (Romans 10:9-10). Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Baptism would be considered a "work" in which man could boast. Therefore, baptism is not necessary for salvation. Salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23 and Titus 3:5).

As you read through this worksheet answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

I. What does Baptism Symbolize?

1. Read Romans 6:3-5 and Colossians 2:12. Name three things which baptism symbolizes.
2. Read Galatians 3:27. What else does baptism symbolize according to this verse?

II. Why Be Baptized?

1. Read Matthew 3:13-17. What reason does Jesus give for being baptized?
2. What was the result of Jesus' obedience?
3. Read Matthew 28:18-20. The statement, "Go ye therefore" is a command! What three things are commanded?
4. If Jesus is commanding his disciples to "baptize all nations..." what should your response be to his command?

III. Who Should Be Baptized?

1. Read Acts 2:14-41. What is the crowd's response to Peter's sermon (verse 37)?
2. How does Peter respond (verse 38)?
3. In Acts 2:38, 41 and Acts 18:8, what three things precede baptism?

IV. When Should You Be Baptized?

1. Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus' command. Read Acts 8:26-40. In verse 36, what was the Ethiopian's response after believing for salvation and receiving the Gospel?
2. See Acts 10:47 and Acts 16:30-33. How soon after their salvation were these believers baptized?