

Baptism? Necessary for Salvation?

Garland Van Dyke



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About the Author



Garland Van Dyke

Minister for the Matthews Street church of Christ

PO Box 1522

1915 Matthews Street

Bay City, TX 77414

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Baptism? Necessary for Salvation?



Introduction

This baptism debate has been going on forever. I merely want to explain in this book why I believe baptism is necessary for salvation. Why do I believe this?

- Jesus Said It
- Apostles Said It
- The Book of Acts Said It

It's all super consistent with Jesus' commands before He ascended to heaven.

The only way to have a New Testament church is to go see what the first Christians did and then do what they did. That's my goal, to establish New Testament Christianity to the world around me. I hope I can do this by a good study of the scriptures. Blessings!



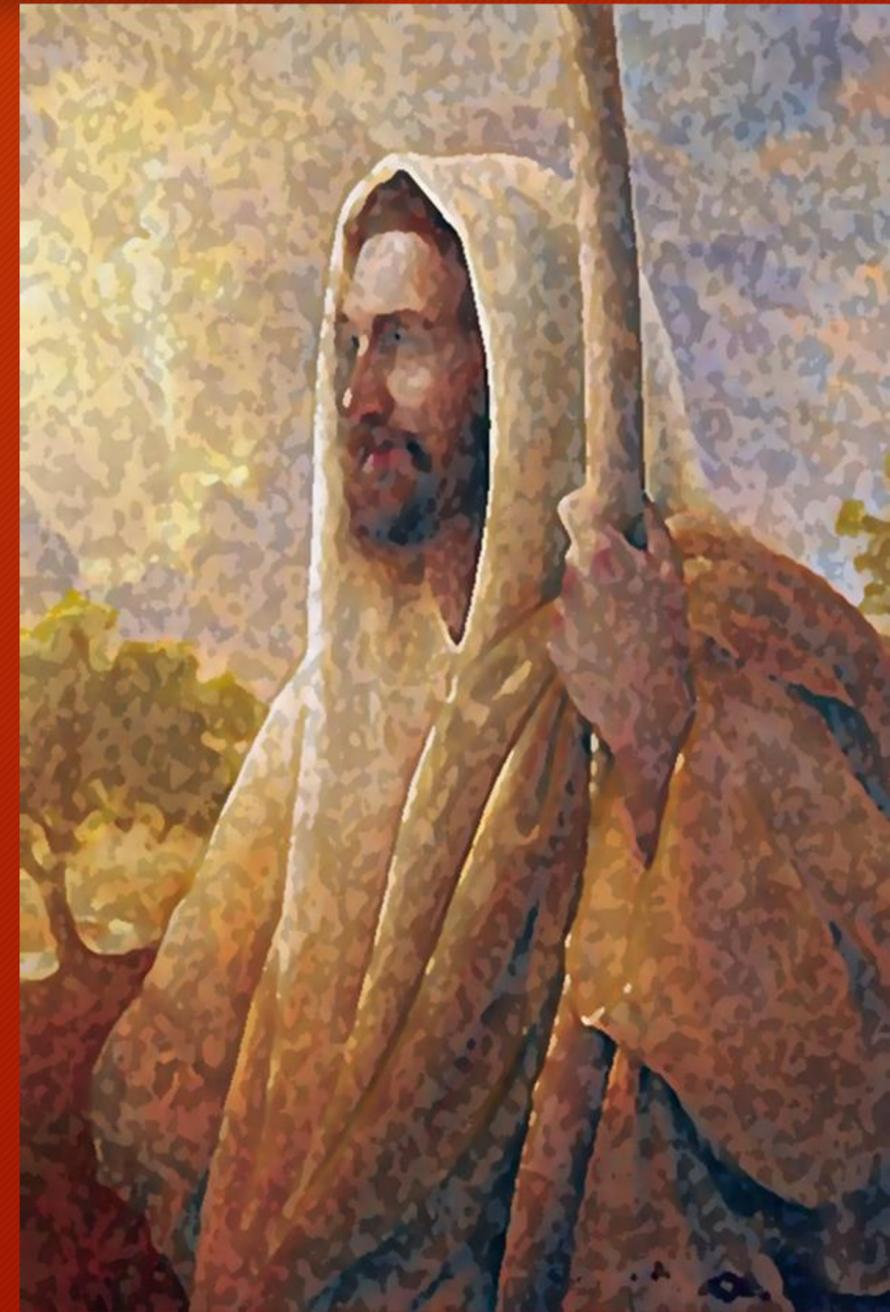
Jesus Said

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Always a debate about baptism, whether it's necessary for salvation or not. I see scriptures where baptism is certainly necessary for salvation.

First of all, Jesus commanded it. Mark 16:16. "If you believe AND are baptized you will be saved;" no faith, no salvation; no baptism, no salvation. Would you want to go to the Lord after He commanded baptism for salvation and say, "Well, you know Lord, baptism is not essential for salvation." Crazy!

Jesus commanded the apostles to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19. And that's exactly what the apostles did in Acts.

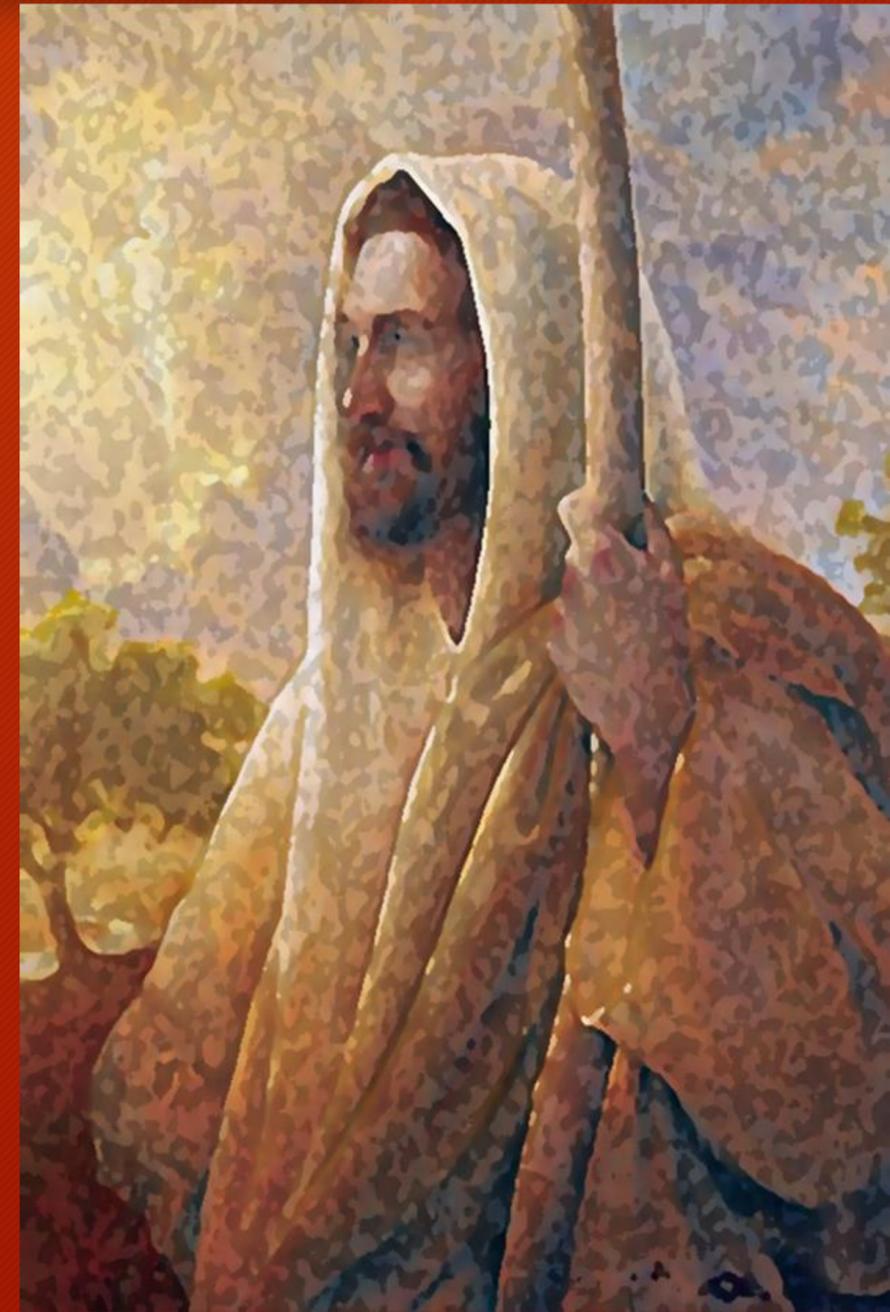


Jesus Said

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Matthew 28:19 – “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 16:16 – “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”



Jesus Said

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Jesus made the point in John 14:15, “If you love me, obey my commandments.” So now, if Jesus commanded baptism for salvation, is it not a sin to disobey Jesus?

Jesus also said, John 15:5-6, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.”

Ignoring or changing Jesus’ commands can be extremely dangerous. I don’t want to be burned and neither do you.

Jesus Said

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It's just best to do as Jesus says, otherwise it is sin.

Here are two interesting points. John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will." If Jesus did the Father's will and He passed along the Father's will to the apostles in regards to baptism then one can plainly see that the Father wants disciples saved through baptism.

Then again, it is the Holy Spirit that delivered the words of the New Testament to it's writers. "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets," 1 Corinthians 2:10.

"When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths," 1 Corinthians 2:13.

The Apostles Said

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1st Peter 3:21 just comes on out with it. We are saved by baptism. Peter was an apostle, a spokesman for Jesus. Would you argue with Peter about this? Besides the Holy Spirit directed him in the writing of his epistles. Here's what he wrote: "And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ...".



The Apostles Said

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Water is a picture of baptism: he had just given the example of Noah, verse 20. His family was saved from drowning in that terrible flood. Eight people were saved by *not* dying in water. They were borne up by the water. Baptism is like that. In baptism water, believers are saved.

Baptism saves you: Peter got these words from the Holy Spirit. It either means what it says or it doesn't. Jesus told the apostles to tell folks to be baptized for salvation, Mark 16:16. So Peter is doing exactly what Jesus commanded. Baptism, for the remission of sins of a believer in Christ, saves you.

It's not about a bath: Peter makes the point. It's not about removing the dirt from our bodies. It's about salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Apostles Said

13

Baptism is asking God for a clean, clear conscience: That's a basic concept of the Christian faith. Regardless of what you've done or how bad you've been you can be clear and pure before the Father. That means you're sins have been washed away.

Paul said this in Romans 6:3-5, "Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin."

The Apostles Said

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We are joined with Christ in baptism: Jesus died, was buried, and then arose from the dead. What Christ went through physically on the cross, we go through spiritually. Our old man of sin dies.

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism: We too die, we are buried, and are raised to new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17: “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father: we are raised too, from baptism to new life now and raised in the resurrection later!

The Apostles Said

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Now we also may live new lives: lives free from the stain and death of sin. We are alive evermore as we follow our Lord through life. We develop a Christ-like nature, we take on the Fruit of the Spirit.

Since we have been united with him in his death: “Since” shows something that has been done. We have been united with Jesus in his death but that happens only through baptism.

We will also be raised to life as he was: According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Jesus was seen alive after death by the apostles and over 500 brethren at one time. Where is Jesus now? In heaven with the Father. Where will we be? One day in heaven with the Father but only because we have come alive in baptism. *You cannot be raised to new life unless you undergo baptism.* It's Bible!

The Apostles Said

16

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ : It's a known fact. Our old self was done away with, we are no longer slaves of sin and death because of baptism.

So that sin might lose its power in our lives: Death has been defeated in Christ when we are baptized, sin no longer reigns over us. There is a new life to be lived.

We are no longer slaves to sin: Hebrews 2:14, "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." Satan brings death. Jesus brings life. Powerful blessings through baptism.

The Apostles Said

17

Paul has this in Colossians 2:10-12. “So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”

You are spiritually alive because of your baptism into Christ. You are united with Him. You are complete in Christ Jesus. He is head over everything in heaven and earth. We ought to obey Him, not argue with Him about baptism.

Just as the Jews took on physical circumcision to show themselves of God. Christians take on spiritual circumcision. It’s a cutting away of the old man of sin.

The Apostles Said

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How did this cutting away happen? Note the word “For” at the beginning of Colossians 2:10, NLT. “For” is about to explain something to us. It’s the cutting away of the old man’s sins because we have been baptized and raised to new life from water. Our old man of sin died.

Now, the Apostle Paul said this. Where did He get his information? From Jesus. From the Spirit. We trust the mighty power of God to raise us sinless and pure just as He physically raised Jesus from the dead.

Even the Apostle John is in on baptism. 1 John 5:6, “And Jesus Christ was revealed as God’s Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony.” Jesus was baptized and this gave evidence He was truly the Son of God. He proved Himself to be Deity through His death on the cross. The Holy Spirit confirmed it in the word. We are confirmed to be God’s children after baptism!

The Case for Baptism in Acts

19

It began in Acts chapter two. Jesus told the apostles to remain in Jerusalem and wait until the Father sends the Spirit. Jesus explained to them, “John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit,” Acts 1:4-5.

They were to receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, Acts 1:8. And the Holy Spirit did just that, Acts 2:14, “On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”



The Case for Baptism in Acts

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There were many Jews in Jerusalem for Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. Peter and the other Apostles began preaching. Peter told the Jews the following:

- What was happening is the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.
- Jesus is the Messiah.
- The patriarch David was buried and in his tomb but Jesus' body is not entombed. He was raised by the Father. They themselves were eyewitnesses to this.
- "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

Many of the hearers believed Peter's discourse.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

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The Jews who believed Peter's sermon were cut in the heart for their part in the murder of Jesus Christ. They asked Peter and the rest of the Apostles what they must do, referring to God's punishment for their crime.

Acts has Peter responding saying, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Acts 2:38

- These Jews believed in God and Jesus.
- Peter told them to repent of their sins and turn to God.
- Peter told them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the purpose of having their sins forgiven.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

22

Those that believed were baptized with gladness. Three thousand souls were added to the church that day. As an aside, the church of Christ began that day. It is the church that belongs to Jesus, it's no man-made denominational church. It's only His church and He is head over it, Ephesians 1:22-23. Man has no right to devise creeds, doctrines, statements of faith that differ from the words of the Bible. Such denominations are sinful!



The Case for Baptism in Acts

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Acts 3

In Acts 3 Peter is preaching in Solomon's portico. A lame man had just been healed in Jesus' name and that was an occasion to speak to the Jews once again. Verse 16, "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes."

Here's verse 19: "Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away."

This is a repeat of Acts 2:38. The Jews were told to repent and wipe away their sins – sins can only be wiped away by baptism according to Peter's first sermon and Jesus' commands. Turning to God means being baptized.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

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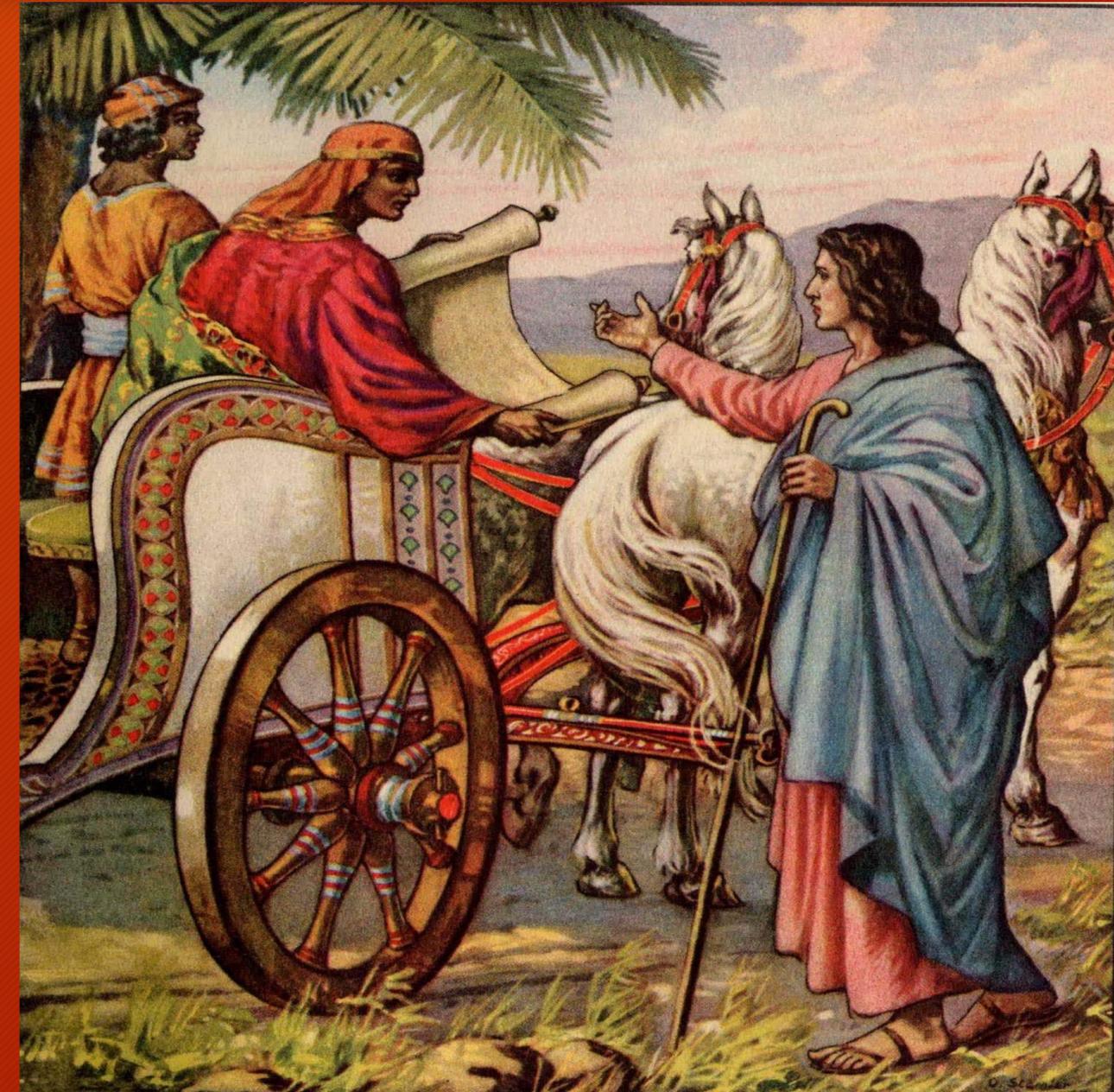
Acts 8:13 – Conversion of Simon the Magician

“Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed”. Simon was a believer in Christ Jesus and was baptized just as Jesus commanded in Mark 16:16. Simon was saved.

Acts 8:36 - Conversion of Ethiopian Treasurer

“As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?’ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.”

Why would Philip preach Jesus and baptism? It’s because baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus said so.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

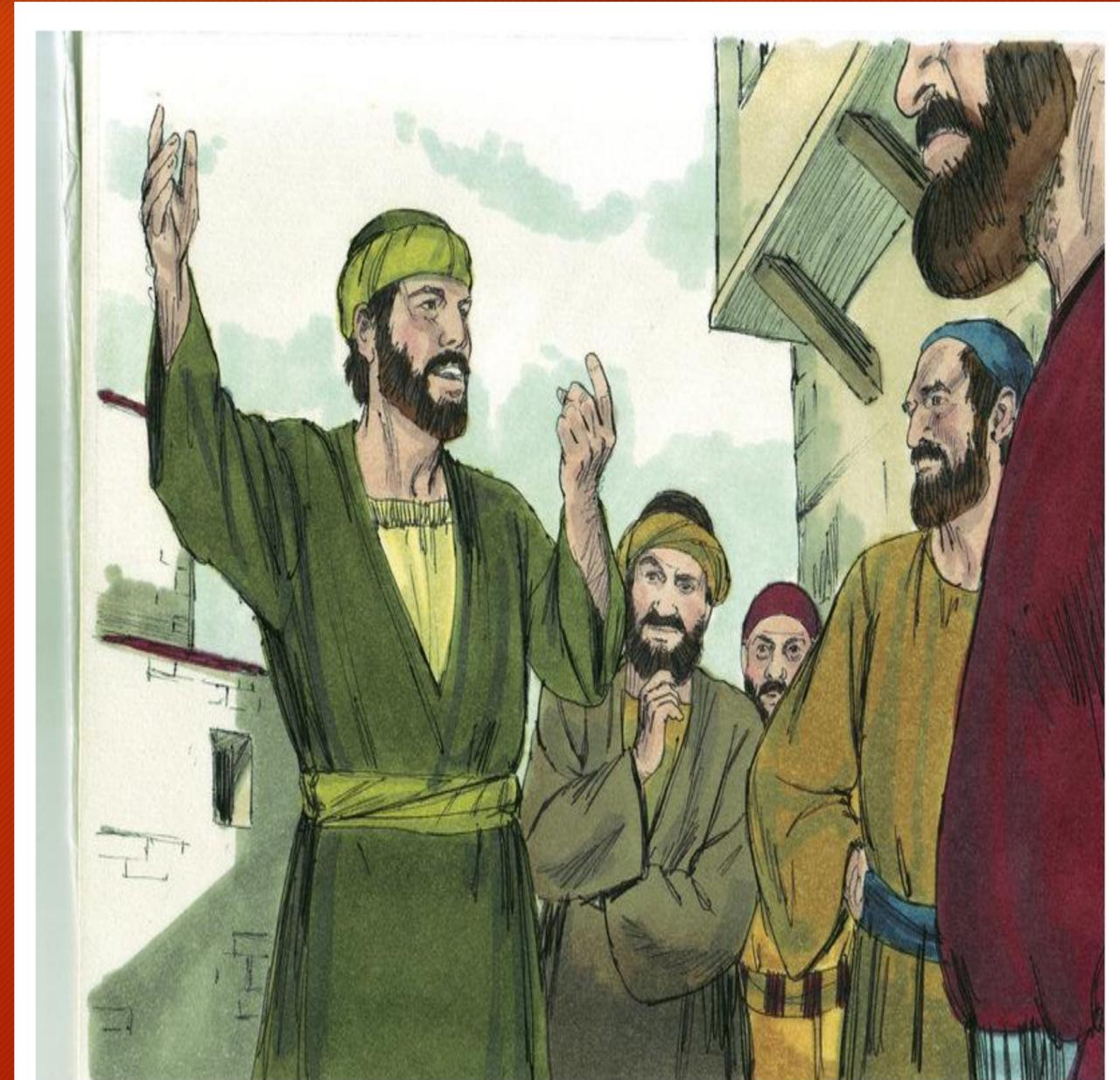
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Acts 10:38 – Conversion of Cornelius

“So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.” Baptism? Ordered?

Acts 16:14-15 - Conversion of Lydia

“One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. ‘If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,’ she said, ‘come and stay at my home.’ And she urged us until we agreed.” She believed and was baptized.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

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Acts 16:30-33 – Conversion of Philippian Jailer

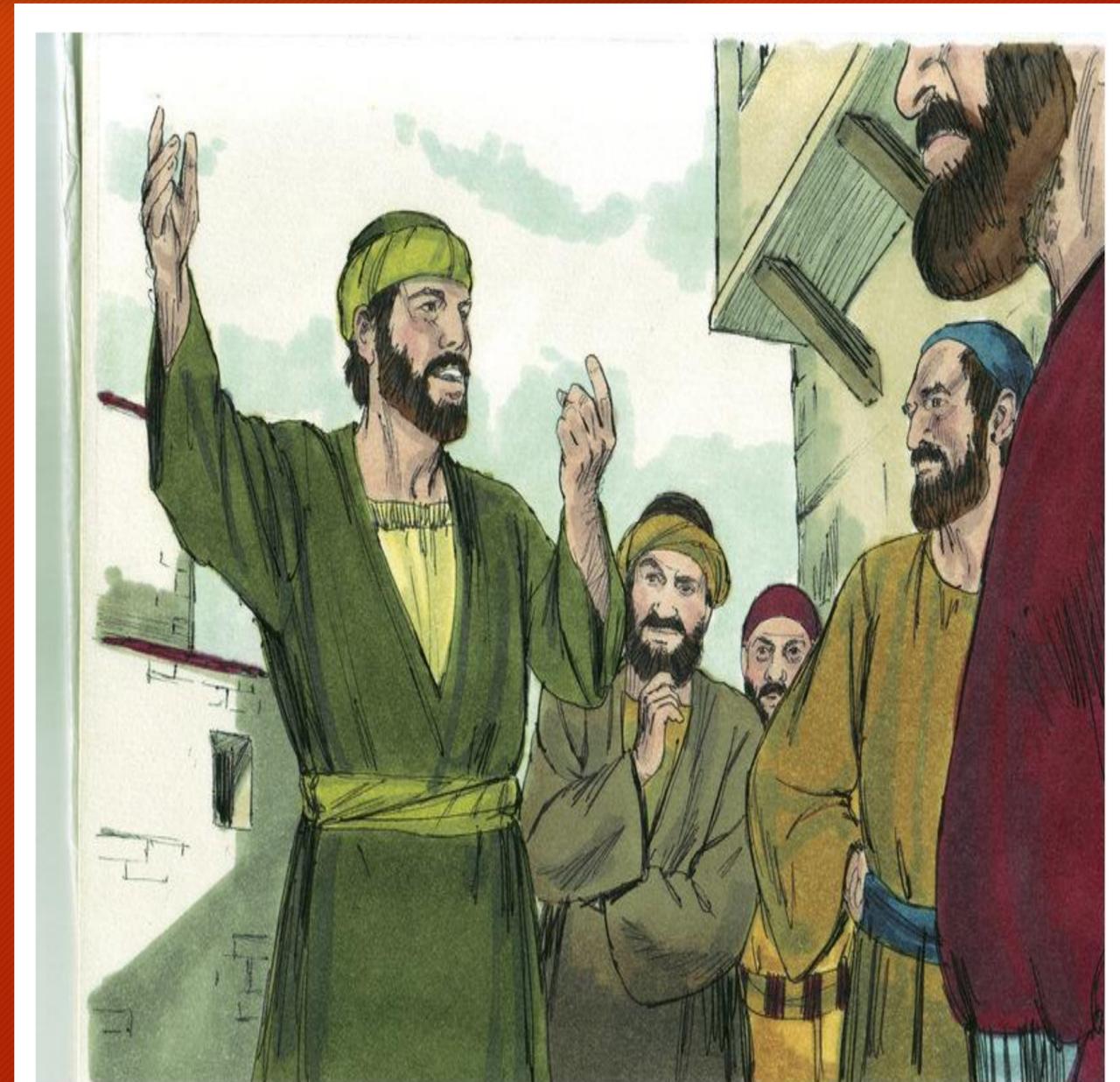
“Then he brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’

They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.’

And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.

Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.”

They shared the word his family believed, and they were baptized; belief and baptism just as Jesus said in Mark 16:16.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

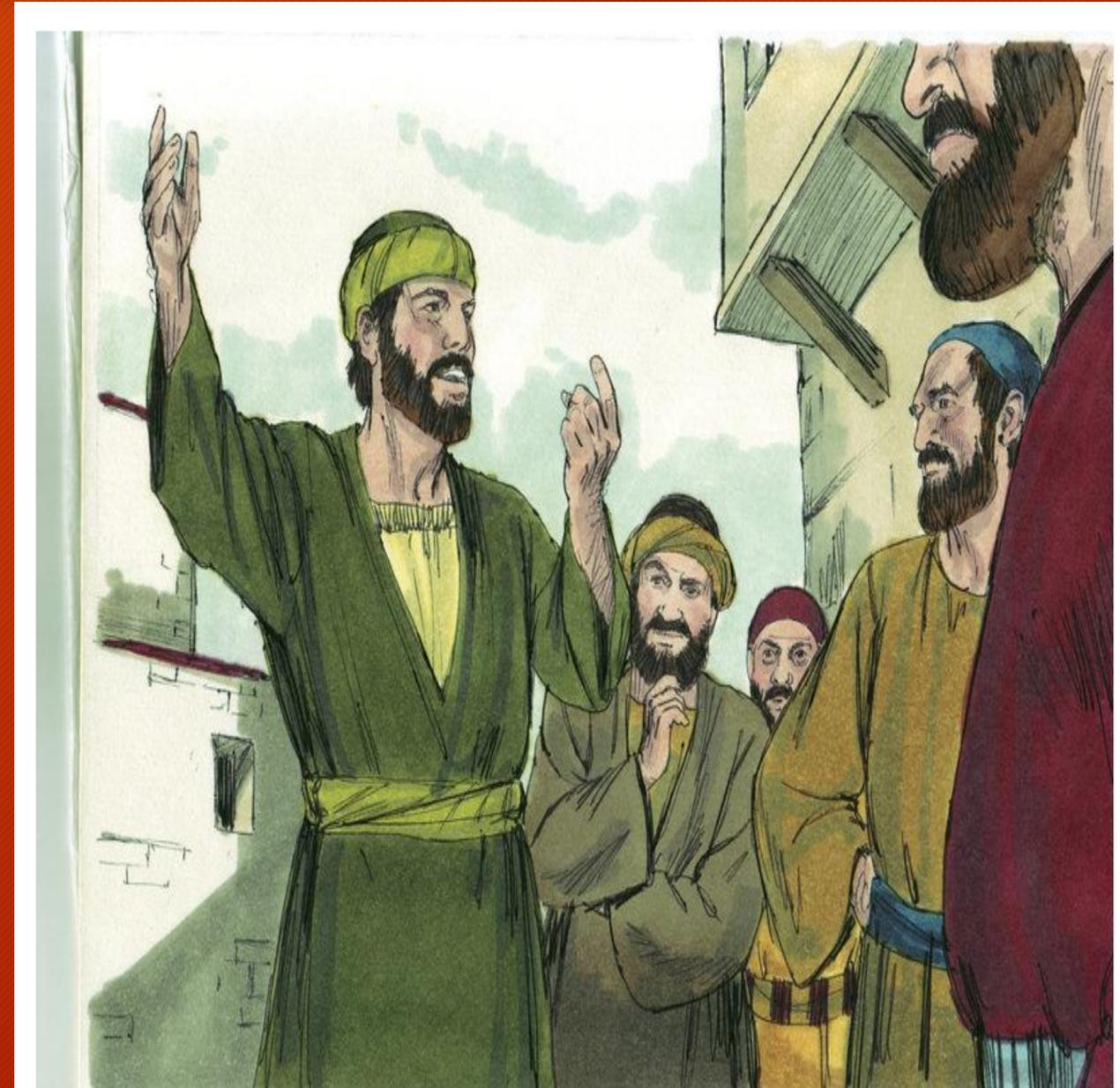
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Acts 18:8 – Crispus and Others

“Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”

This follows the pattern as taught by Jesus and the Apostles: Hearing the word, believing the word, and acting on the word in baptism for remission of sin.

“Anyone who has believed and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned,”
Mark 16:16.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

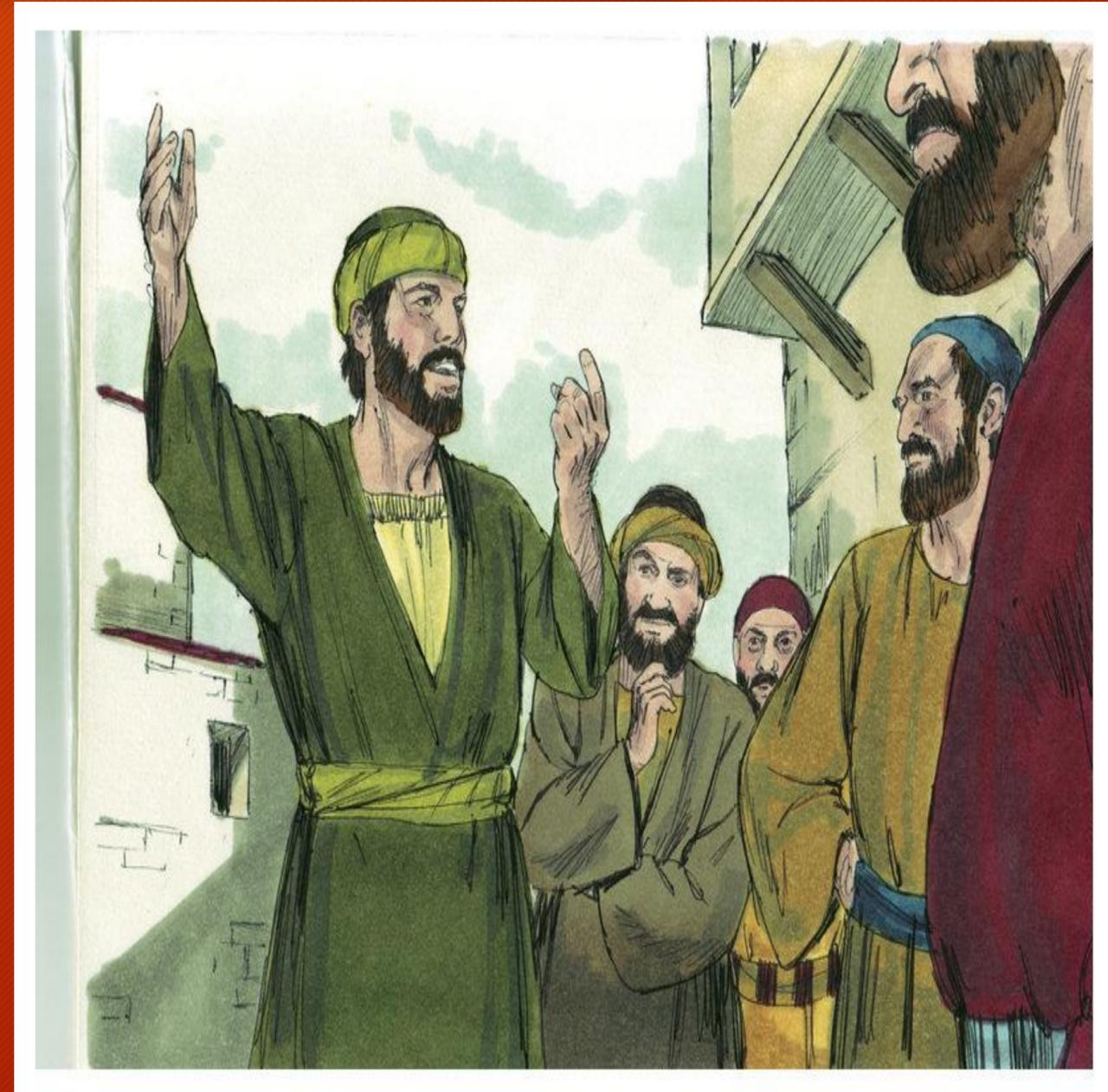
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Acts 19:1-7 – Ephesian Believers

Paul found some believers in the city of Ephesus. He asked them about their baptism. They told him they had been baptized with John's baptism – a baptism of repentance, that the one they should follow (Jesus) would come later.

After Paul's explanation they were immediately baptized.

“As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus,” Acts 19:5.



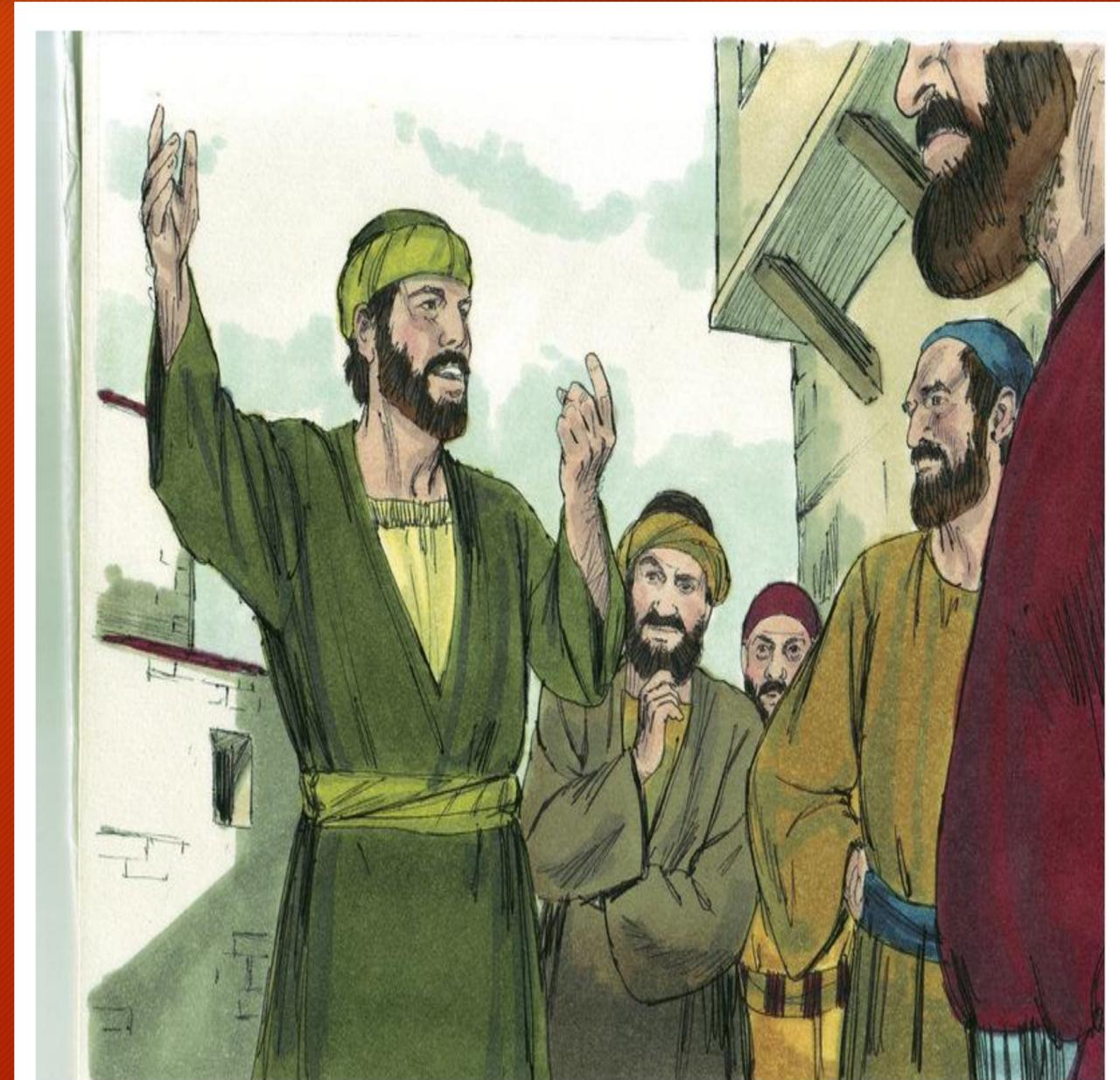
The Case for Baptism in Acts

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Acts 22:14-16 – The Apostle Paul is Baptized

Then he told me, ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.’

Paul was arrested in the Temple for preaching Jesus. He had the opportunity to speak the gospel to the Jews. He restated his own conversion (from Acts 9) while on the Damascus road, his vision of Jesus, his belief, and eventually his baptism. The quote above was spoken by Ananias. “Have your sins washed away.” This can only happen at baptism.



The Case for Baptism in Acts

Summary of Baptism in Acts

		Biblical Examples of Conversions				
		HEAR THE GOSPEL	BELIEVE FAITH	REPENT OF SINS	CONFESS CHRIST	BAPTISM
1	DAY OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:36-42	HEARD 2:37		REPENT 2:37-38		BAPTIZED 2:38-41
2	SAMARITANS ACTS 8:5-13	HEARD 8:6	BELIEVED 8:12			BAPTIZED 8:12
3	SIMON ACTS 8:13	HEARD 8:6	BELIEVED 8:13			BAPTIZED 8:13
4	ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH ACTS 8:35-41	HEARD 8:35			CONFESSED 8:37	BAPTIZED 8:38
5	SAUL - (PAUL) ACTS 9:1-9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18	HEARD 22:16				BAPTIZED 9:18
6	CORNELIUS ACTS 10:25-48	HEARD 10:33	BELIEVED 10:43			BAPTIZED 10:48
7	LYDIA ACTS 16:13-15	HEARD 16:13-14	BELIEVED 16:14			BAPTIZED 16:15
8	PHILIPPIAN JAILOR ACTS 16:34	HEARD 16:32	BELIEVED 16:31			BAPTIZED 16:33
9	THE CORINTHIANS ACTS 18:8	HEARD 18:8	BELIEVED 18:8			BAPTIZED 18:8
10	12 MEN AT EPHEBUS ACTS 19:1-7	HEARD 19:5				BAPTIZED 19:5
PREACHING Romans 10:14 Galatians 1:6-9		HEAR Mark 4:23 Acts 10:22	FAITH Hebrews 11:6 Hebrews 5:8-9	REPENTANCE Luko 13:3, 5 Acts 2:8	CONFESSION Romans 10:10 Matthew 10:32-33	BAPTISM 1 Peter 3:21 Barnes' Bible Chaps

The Steps of Salvation

1. Hear, Romans 10:17
2. Believe, John 8:24
3. Repent, Luke 13:3
4. Confess, Matthew 10:32-33
5. Baptism, Matthew 28:19

Please note, all the conversions, all of the people being saved, were baptized for the remission of sin. Would you argue with Jesus about the necessity of baptism for salvation? Would you ignore the evidence presented from Acts?

Baptism is Only for Believers

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Mark 16:16 – “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

Baptism is only for believers. Babies, toddlers, and children cannot believe in Jesus. Now, obviously, children can be taught of Jesus but they can only be baptized when they come to their own belief that Jesus is the Christ, and that they have sins against their soul.

Anyone can baptize anyone. According to Scripture, all that is required is that the believer is baptized in enough water to completely cover him.

The word “Baptism,” means to immerse; a person is completely immersed in water to be correctly baptized. It’s what Jesus said and meant.



Matthews Street church of Christ

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PO Box 1522
1915 Matthews St
Bay City, TX 77414
979.245.8782



garland.churchofchrist@gmail.com

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