

Topical

Baptism

Acts 8:26-39, Romans 6:1-11, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Baptism • What is it? • Who is it for? • Why do people do it? • Dunkin? Sprinkles? • In a tank, in a lake? Inside? Outside? • For salvation? From it? First time we see the English word Matthew 3:7, John (the Baptist) <i>what a name to be known by</i>	• Calling out the Pharisees for coming to his baptism • One of repentance to flee God's wrath to come • God's here to deal with sin and His wrath, are you ready? <i>They weren't ready, weren't willing and hadn't repented. It would mean nothing if that was their intent.</i> <i>so why would they show up at a baptism ready for the messiah, ready to repent from their wickedness.</i>
Baptisms in the Bible • Baptism of Moses into the Red Sea (1 Cor 10) • Baptism of John, repentance as the messiah was coming • Jesus baptized, fulfill John's baptism, set apart for the public ministry of saving us, trinity revealed: Father speaks, Holy Spirit appears and shows that He is with Jesus • Apostles The death, suffering, martyrdom - Jesus on the cross, would all die for their faith • Holy Spirit - para, en (baptism of moment of salvation), epi upon for good works • Believers - public identification with the risen Lord - dying his death, rising to new life. Clean conscience 1 Pet 3:21 ("identifies us with the church") • Fire - the final judgment, all of this creation burned up (2 Pet 3), satan and all those who rejected Jesus and followed him, into hell	We see other washings/baptisms • Naaman 7x in river, leprosy 2 Ki 5 • Priests standing in the Jordan while entering promised land • The Flood, I'd say Noah's baptism in a way (although he stayed dry, like the Israelites and Moses) • Washing of the water of the Word (Eph 5:26)

Read Acts 8:26-39

- Preached Jesus from scripture
- If you believe with all your heart
- Not just anything “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”
- He is God
- He is Salvation (YHWH is Salvation)

Christian baptism is a practical response of one who believes in their heart the gospel

An act in response to the moment of salvation

- *Immediate is great, but a week or month or two isn't wrong*
- *Asking questions ensuring salvation*

Married? - remember first thinking and feeling in love with your not-yet-spouse?

You thought it, felt it, finally got up the nerve to say it. “I love you.”

What eventually followed? “Will you marry me?”

What a beautiful thing if both were first said at the same time...

Then, to show your love, commitment, your searching over - you got married

Beautiful thing, even if in a courthouse

Romans 10:8-11 - But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

*No mention of required for salvation baptism in scripture **Only see it occur from salvation***

Belief in the heart, then the believer takes action in response

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Romans 6:1-11 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? **Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,...**

..knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Baptism is a genuine act to personally and publicly identify with Jesus' death and resurrection

Old you dies with the One who became your sin and died in your place for God's judgment

New you rises to spiritual life with the resurrected Lord - to live a new life, Jesus' life, in this life, awaiting the full resurrection at the end

- Holy Spirit baptized you into the Kingdom
- Water Baptism is officially declaring you're a part of the church (not a church)

churches using tanks, baptismals, especially in winter! I get it!

I'm not saying they're doing anything wrong, or ashamed of doing it...

But I like public baptisms better

The public witnesses our witness of the risen Lord

Opportunity to overhear the gospel
And your confession is clearly public, s

someone you know, not in church might see you

Opens up the doors for conversation, "what was that (weird?) thing you did in the water?"

Baptisms Public pool, lakes

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of salvation, not getting wet (the water)

and that complete salvation paid for,
Spiritually resurrected now
Physically resurrected then

Even the early church began to make it a thing it wasn't - baptized into a name, movement, church, other than just Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:11-17 - For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." **Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.**

The priority mission:
sharing the gospel.

Where the gospel is received,
baptisms will follow.

Does baptism save?
No, that would make it a work!

Contradict the rest of scripture

Case in point: Thief on the cross

But if you are saved,
you will get be baptized

1 Peter 3:18-22 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, **when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.** There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Not saves us, sanctifies
"Safe" "heal" "be whole"

What was your mind like before Jesus? Mine was literally crazy. Drugged out. Confused. Full of sinful memories. Guilt.

- Dying body
- Saved soul
- Washed mind

*I could see being **shy**, and if shy, maybe just think of the cross and the freedom God gave you*
And you'll jump right in

I don't see how you could not want to, at all, have no desire, keep putting it off
I think the issue is deeper than, one of saving belief

OK, just believe! Be saved. Get baptized.

There is a “divine longsuffering” in our day

- Sending out the good news of Jesus
- Giving everyone opportunity and time to repent
- Because the alternative of hell and judgment is so awful, God will only do it at the last minute

So...sprinkled? Dunked?

Anointing...

- **Priests and kings** had oil poured on their head and beard, anointed
- Priests **sprinkled blood** on the Ark
- **Oil for prayer and sickness**, James 5
- **Foot washings, other washings**

John 15:3 - "You are already clean because of the **word** which I have spoken to you.

God's word washes you
His Word to you, when you believe is,
You're saved.

Baptisms we see in the Bible
are full on in

Word actually means: dip, dip repeatedly, immerse, submerge, clean by dipping or submerging, bathe, overwhelm

If you're in the desert, and can't find a deep enough puddle, go ahead and sprinkle

The heart of belief behind it is the most important thing

But really, how saved are you?

Did God save you from a little? A lot?
Your whole life?
Do you want just a drop? Or every bit?

Anyone truly saved knows it's from everything they were without Him.

Even one little thing needs a huge work of God to be saved from.

So for you just a sprinkle?
The whole thing?

And if that was you, sprinkled in Arizona, feel free to double dip all the way today (seriously, no need, you're good, unless you want to)

Who can/should be baptized? Anyone who's saved!

Just adults?

There is age of accountability and grace

But if a child believes the gospel, they can and should be baptized

But how will you know it's genuine?

How will you know the adult's is genuine?
Where their life goes after

Do we think their salvation is any less possible, amazing, important just because they didn't go out and live totally sinfully?
What a better testimony they have than us!

At worst, you, in love, “hoped all things, believed all things” and wanted to not prevent them, and all they did is get wet

God will still use it in their life - how do I know?

My first baptism, my second baptism

Matthew 19:14 - But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Do you want to forbid them? Cause them to stumble?

Your children, all children, should be our priority as believers.

Timmy, upset, because what Jesus did for me was awesome (dying, taking his sin, raising again) - that's belief

**“entire households”
coming to faith in the Bible**

Baby dedications in the bible, not baby baptisms

So we dedicate, not baptize babies

Because baptism is an answer of one's conscience - with knowledge - God's saving work in their heart. Not your parent's decision for you
Not being baptized into a church or religion

Pray for and dedicate your children to the Lord

Live out His life in yours, and watch His hand guard them, keep them, and lead them to himself

Let not your life be the hindrance to the gospel in theirs

**Water good
Holy Spirit better**

(the Holy Spirit first leads you to water, then the world)

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We spend a lot of time focusing on how and when you got wet, all important.

But are you concerned with the work of God's Spirit in your life?

Old life behind you, God's Spirit living inside you, let Him power up your Christian life!

He's a gentlemen, he won't force you to do anything: Saved. Baptized. In ministry.

- But if you're heart's been changed
- Your mind's been washed.
- Your relationship's been restored with God
- Your future is assured
- You'll get baptized
- You'll ask for more of His Holy Spirit
- To live the life you're resurrected for

It's good to learn about baptism
Be reminded of it
Help others do it

So if that's you, you're baptized, been saved...

Hebrews 6:1-2 - Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Let's go on to perfection!

- Sanctification in this life, ministry to lead others to the next one
- **Living the resurrected life more and more for Jesus every day**

So if you are saved, but haven't been baptized

Or you are saved, but haven't yet been baptized

Or if you were baptized as an infant, but know Jesus yourself now...

Like the Ethiopian eunuch:

- **What's preventing you?**
- Have you heard the gospel?
- Do you believe Jesus is God?
- That He died to save you?
- **Then confess, be saved, get baptized, and live a new life in Him**