

Is Baptism Essential For Salvation? (No. 12)

By Casey Head

What would it take to convince you that baptism is essential for salvation? What would the Bible have to say to persuade you? Let's notice some of the possible answers to this question, and in doing so, we will review many of the passages of scripture that have been highlighted in recent months concerning the necessity of water baptism for salvation.

"The Bible would have to say that baptism is for salvation," you might exclaim. Well, the Bible *does* say that. Mark 16:16 says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" and 1 Peter 3:21 says "baptism doth also now save us." Furthermore, John 3:5 says that we are "born of water." Is baptism essential for salvation? Yes!

You might contend, "The Bible would have to clearly connect baptism with the remission of sins." Actually, the Bible *does* make that very connection. Peter told the Jews in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." In Acts 22:16, Saul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." According to Romans 6:6 the "body of sin" is destroyed when we are baptized, and in Colossians 2:11-12 Paul says, "In putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God." So, yes, baptism yields "remission of sins."

"I know that salvation is in Christ," you might declare. "So if you could show me that we are baptized into Christ, then I would acknowledge that baptism is essential for salvation." That sounds logical! Let's see what the scriptures say. Galatians 3:27 says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We also know that Jesus is the savior of the body (Eph. 5:23), and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 teach that we are baptized into the one body of Christ. To get into Christ, one must be baptized!

A person might argue, "You can't prove to me that baptism is essential for salvation, because I believe we're saved by the blood of Christ, not water." Hold on a minute, friend! Believe it or not, the Bible teaches that we contact Jesus' precious blood at the point of baptism. Romans 5:9-10 say, "Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Just a few verses later, in Romans 6:3, Paul says, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?" We are justified by the blood of Christ which was shed at His death. How do we reach the blood? We are baptized into Jesus' death!

What would the Bible have to say, that it already doesn't say, to convince you that baptism is essential for salvation? Please, simply embrace what the scriptures teach. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." "Repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins."

If you have any questions or disagreements about the content of this article, or if you would like to agree to a public debate, please contact me. I want to hear from you. My phone number is (828)467-1463. My mailing address is P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, North Carolina 28777 and my email address is NCBibleQuestions@yahoo.com. If you contact me, you can expect to be treated with kindness and respect. After all, this is not a personal dispute. It's not about who is right, it's about what is right. Also, you can find all of the previous articles in this series at our website, www.LookingToJesus.com.