

# “What Is Baptism?”

*Acts 8:26-28; 35-38*

## **Open: Intro.**

- Baptism is not an alternate form of salvation; nor is it a replacement for placing your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Baptism never has and never will get someone into Heaven; nor has it ever kept someone from getting to Heaven.

## **Story: Acts 8**

- Philip, a man of God, is told by God to leave a revival meeting and go out into the desert. **vs. 26**
- He meets a wealthy man from the country of Ethiopia, who is reading the Bible. **vs. 27-28**
- The man from Ethiopia wanted to get baptized, but Philip explained to him that baptism only follows salvation. **vs. 35-37**
- Only once the man from Ethiopia got saved, did Philip baptize him. **vs. 38**

**Tran:** “Our goal, as individual children of God, is to do all we can to please our heavenly Father, and the only way we can please the heavenly Father is to obey His Word by faith.”

- A Biblical example of a group of Christians who decided to obey God’s Word by faith. **Acts 2:41-42**
  - Notice they got saved.
  - Notice they got baptized.
  - Notice they continued growing.
    - Many Christians never continue steadfast in the faith because they have decided to only obey what they understand.
- Here is a simple way to illustrate what baptism means.
  - B = Bible** command for all believers.
  - A = A** local church ordinance (command).
  - P = Public** testimony of faith.
  - T = The** first step of obedience after salvation.
  - I = Immersion** under the water.
  - S = Salvation**’s picture (the gospel).
  - M = Meant** only for the saved.

## **I. Bible teaching on baptism.**

- Baptism is not a religious tradition; it is a Biblical command.

A. Who is a proper candidate for baptism? Only a person who has been saved. **III: Ethiopian Eunuch**

- Any time, in the Bible, baptism is mentioned; you find it in reference to those who are saved.
1. Jesus = **Matt. 3:16-17** “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
  2. Paul = **Acts 9:18** - “And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

B. Baptism is to be as soon as possible after getting saved.

1. People saved at Pentecost = **Acts 2:41** - "*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*"
2. The Ethiopian Eunuch = **Acts 8:38** - "*And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*"

C. What is the proper method of Baptism? Immersion = to be fully submerged

- Baptism is the picture of death, when someone dies do, we just sprinkle dirt on them? No, we bury them under six feet of dirt.

1. **Matt. 3:16** - "*And Jesus when he was baptized, went straightway out of the water...*"
2. **Acts 8:38** - "... *And they went down both into the water...*"

D. Baptism never has and never will save anyone.

1. Jesus did no wrong and did not need to be saved; yet he got baptized. – If Jesus needed saved, then He was not the perfect Lamb of God. Jesus got baptized, not to be saved, but to obey His Father.
2. Baptism is equivalent to the Old Testament sacrifices. – Just like sacrificing an animal never got anyone saved, getting baptized does not get anyone saved it is simply a picture. (**ILL:** Use attached illustration here.)

## II. Why Get baptized?

- A. Obedience to what Jesus said – If for no other reason we are to be baptized because we want to be obedient to God's Word.
- B. Baptism pictures the death of your old nature and the resurrection of your new nature. **Rom. 6:4** "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of Life.*"
- C. Baptism is like a uniform that identifies you with Christ. Because I am not ashamed of whose team I am on; I should be willing to identify that team. (I want it to be known that I am not ashamed to be on Jesus' team.) **Rom 1:16** "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...*"

### Close:

- This would be a great opportunity to follow up with students about them being obedient in believer's baptism.
- If they are scared of being baptized for any reason, encourage them to pray and ask God for the courage to obey in faith.
- You should reassure your class, that Pastor will be very careful; and make sure they are safely baptized.

## **Rom 1:16a**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."*