

# Baptism and False Doctrine

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Plan of Salvation Review

- *Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Jesus is Lord or Be a Disciple, Be Baptized*

## Key Examples of Conversions in Acts

First Christian in Jerusalem .....	<u>Acts 2:36-47</u>
Ethiopian Eunuch .....	<u>Acts 8:26-39</u>
Philippian jailer and his family .....	<u>Acts 16:22-34</u>
Paul .....	<u>Acts 9:1-22, Acts 22:3-16</u>

- What was preached? ..... The good news about Jesus Christ
- What was the response to the message? ..... They were baptized
- How long did it take to make a decision? Less than 3 days. The longest is 3 days!

*They responded quickly, because they knew baptism was necessary for salvation*  
*Traditions and False Doctrines can emerge to nullify God's Word.. Matthew 15:6-9*

## Ritual Based:

**Infant Baptism:** Based on the doctrine of "original sin". We are born guilty of the sins of our forefathers.

- Began approximately third century A.D.
- Became "church doctrine" in 549 A.D.
- There is no original sin..... Ezekiel 18:20  
Each person is responsible for his own actions and will be judged accordingly.  
Therefore, babies are born sinless and will be saved if they die
- We are raised through faith in the power of God ..... Colossians 2:12  
Personal faith is needed. But babies do not have faith, so they cannot be baptized.

## Belief Based: Salvation by Only Believing

*"Pray or Accept Jesus into your heart"*

- This phrase is never mentioned in the Bible
- Began in the early 1800s in America
- About Jesus knocking at the door..... Revelation 3:20  
*Examine the Scripture in context:* This scripture does not teach how to become a Christian and be saved, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm. It is addressed to disciples who already responded to Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

*Only belief saves you* ..... Romans 10:9

- The Scripture also states that action, moving your lips to confess, "Jesus is Lord" to is required for salvation. Belief alone is not enough. Action is still required in this passage, the action of speaking
- Action is required to call on the name of the Lord..... Romans 10:13
  - When do you call on the name of the Lord? At baptism..... Acts 22:16

*"Baptism is a work, yet we are saved by faith"* ..... Ephesians 2:8

- We are saved by faith: faith in God working through baptism..... Colossians 2:12
- **Understand the Bible meaning of faith** ..... James 2:14-26  
Belief and action work together for saving faith as we hear, believe and obey God's Word
- **Understand the Bible meaning of "saved by works"**  
Being saved by works meant that for every sin committed, good deeds could be done to make up for the sin. When the Bible says salvation is "not by works", it does not mean we do nothing at all. It means there are not enough good deeds we can do to make up for our sins.
- There is no amount of work we can do to deserve salvation, but that does not mean we do nothing to access salvation
  - If someone said you won a Porsche, tax free and insurance paid, but to gain possession, you would have to pick up the keys, pink slip, and register the vehicle, would you earn the car by following the instructions? No, you would receive the car by following instructions
  - The car is worth way more than the time you invested gaining access it
- Action can be required to access a gift given by grace

*"Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace"*

- Baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is not merely a sign, seal or symbol ..... Romans 6:2-4

*"Baptism does not save you"*

- Baptism saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..... 1 Peter 3:21
- Sin is forgiven at baptism. One is saved at the point sin is forgiven..... Acts 2:38

*"Baptism isn't important"* ..... 1 Corinthians 1:17

- Paul was thankful that he had only baptized a few Corinthians
- *Examine the Scripture in context:* Paul does not diminish the importance of baptism. He makes the point that he does not want people following men (denominationalism) ..... 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
- He mentions baptism several times in the passage
- Paul himself was baptized to have his sins forgiven..... Acts 22:16

*"The thief on the cross was not baptized and Jesus told him that they would see each other in paradise"*

- Jesus had not died yet, and baptism is participating in his death..... Romans 6:2-4
- On earth, Jesus had the power to forgive sins..... Matthew 9:2-6

**"Believers baptism":** This is baptism as an adult, but is not done in conjunction with the understanding that one is being saved at this point in time.

- "Retroactive understanding" is not enough for salvation ..... John 3:5, Acts 2:38
  - Baptism works with hearing, believing, repenting and making Jesus Lord