

Redwater Restorer

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)

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Must We be Baptized For The Remission Of Sins

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Redwater
Church of Christ

Services:

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AM Worship 10:45 a.m.
PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
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In Acts chapter 2, Peter had convicted the people there of having killed the Son of God. In verse 37 their question was, *"Men and brethren what shall we do?"* *"Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins."* Here people were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. Only when we submit to baptism as the Lord has commanded, that is for the remission of sins to be saved, do we show our faith in the Lord. Only then will He save us.

Man today has a sin problem. It is our sins that separate us from God. We are to repent and be baptized for the remission of our sins. This is God's instruction on how we solve our sin problem. In the above verse, when Peter told them to *"Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins,"* whatever repentance is for in that verse, baptism is for the same reason. Repent and be baptized are joined by the coordinating conjunction *and*, which joins words of equal grammatical importance. Certainly Acts 2:38 does not teach that lost people are to repent because they have already received forgiveness of their sins. Neither does it teach that lost people are to be baptized because their sins are already forgiven. Satan would like you to believe that baptism has nothing to do with the forgiveness of your sins. **Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins?** Again, the choice is yours; either believe what God has said and be saved, or believe what men say and you will continue to be lost. We only have two choices, and the choice that we make will have eternal consequences. But please make the right choice.

In the book of Acts we have the account of the conversion of the Apostle Paul. In Acts chapter 9, Paul is traveling on the road up to Damascus to persecute Christians. The Lord appears to Paul on the road and strikes him blind. In verse 5 he tells Paul, *"I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."* In verse 6 Paul asks, *"Lord what do you want me to do? Then the Lord said to him (Paul), Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* The Lord did not tell Paul **what he must do**, but that someone in the city would tell him **what he must do**. Let's see now what Paul was **told he must do**. In Acts chapter 22, a man named Ananias, who was sent by the Lord, came to Paul and miraculously restored Paul's eyesight. Notice what Paul was told by Ananias **that he must do**. Acts 22:16, *"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* Paul was

not saved three days earlier while on the road to Damascus, as some people would like for us to believe. Paul up to this point was still lost, because he still had all his sins that needed to be washed away. Paul still had a sin problem. Obedience to the Lord's command to be baptized was necessary to wash away Paul's sins. At the point of baptism every sin that we have ever committed will be taken away, if it is done for that purpose. Have you been baptized for the purpose of having your sins washed away? If you have not, then you still have a sin problem. You are still lost.

Paul was not told "to pray the sinners prayer and ask Jesus to come into his heart in order to be saved." This is foreign to the scripture. You cannot find anywhere in the Bible where anyone was ever told to do this. Since God in the Bible has never told anyone "To pray and ask Jesus to come into your heart in order to be saved", who else but men could have come up with such an idea? Forgiveness occurs in the mind of God and not on the basis of man's feeling in his heart. Only when we have done what **God** has said **that we must do**, will God forgive our sins. We cannot devise our own plan as to how our sins are to be forgiven.

Do not misunderstand. We do not "earn" our salvation by being baptized. Salvation is a gift from God. Even though salvation is a free gift from God, he has laid down certain conditions upon which he will give it. One condition to receive his gift is faith: Hebrews 11:6, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him."* Another condition of his free gift is repentance: Luke 13:3, *"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* Another condition is baptism: Mark 16:16, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved."* The conditions include doing all *"the will of the Father,"* Matthew 7:21. These are God's conditions. Believing in God and Christ with all our heart, repenting of all our sins, confessing Christ and being baptized are **all equally important** to our salvation. If any of these are lacking, then we will not be saved. You can't have one without the others. There is nothing that we can do to merit salvation. Whether it be believing in Jesus or being baptized, we can never "earn our salvation". The only way we can show our faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey what He says. It is in baptism that God has chosen to impart his wonderful grace of salvation to us as a willing believer.

Questions Related To Baptism

1) (Acts 2:38) What were these people in this verse told to do for the remission of their sins?

- Pray to God.
- Repent and be baptized.
- Only believe.

2) Our sins are forgiven before we repent and are baptized. True False

3) (Acts 22:16) What was Paul told to do to have his sins washed away?

- Accept Christ as his personal Saviour
- Only believe in Jesus.
- Arise and be baptized.

4) Until Paul was baptized he still had all his sins.

- True False

5) Where can we find in the Bible that we are told to pray and ask Jesus to come into our heart in order to be saved?

- Jude 2:5.
- 2 John 1:14.
- It is not there.

6) We cannot find in the Bible where anyone was ever told to accept Jesus into his heart in order to be saved.

- True False

7) (1 Peter 3:21) What does the Bible say saves us?

- Faith only.
- Baptism.
- Our own goodness.

8) It is at the point of baptism that God has chosen to impart His wonderful grace of salvation. True False

If you are interested in any of the following please check the appropriate box and mail to the address below. Please include return address and phone number if possible.

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