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Baptism!

Where Does It Fit in God's Plan?

A Study Outline by Chuck Bramble and Gary Calton

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Please prayerfully consider each of the verses discussed under the question before giving your answer.

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

1. Do you believe that the Bible is literally God's word or is it the writings of some good men? (Circle one)

2Pet 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake** as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1Cor 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I **write** unto you are the **commandments of the Lord**.

2Tim 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it **not as the word of men**, but as it is in truth, **the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2. Can we believe the word of men or must we look to God for answers in matters of our salvation? _____

2Tim 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

3. Can we understand the word of God? _____

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is**.

4. Is God's word impossible or just sometimes difficult to understand? _____

II Pet 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are **hard to understand**, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

5. Can we have all that we need to know for our life today? _____

II Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us **everything we need** for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

6. Do all so called "Christian" religious groups agree with the Bible's answer to question 5? _____

The Mormons have apostles who claim to continue to receive new messages from God.
The Jehovah's Witnesses' leaders claim to continue to receive new doctrine.
Pentecostals claim to continue to receive messages from God.
Many people believe that God speaks to them directly from heaven.

7. Does God say the same thing to all of these groups? _____

1 Cor 14:33 For God is **not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

8. Whose teachings are we to follow, God's or man's? _____

Mt 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in **vain** they do **worship** me, teaching for **doctrines the commandments of men**.

9. Who has authority in religion today? _____

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all **in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what **power, or by what name**, have ye done this? ... 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ...12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (KJV)

Mt 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

10. Must we obey Jesus today? _____

Lk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do not** the things which I say?

11. How do we know what God wants us to do? _____

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Rom 10:17 Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message**, and the message is heard through the **word of Christ**.

Eph 3:3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 **In reading this**, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

II Tim 3:15 and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise** for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

12. What did Paul write? _____

I Cor 14:37 If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is **the Lord's command**.

II Pet 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother **Paul** also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 **He writes the same way in all his letters**, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction.

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

Before Jesus died, i.e., while he walked on the earth and obeyed the Law of Moses, we have the example of the thief on the cross.

Lk 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

13. What did the thief know of Jesus? _____

Heb 11:1 Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Rom 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

14. We don't know what the thief knew about Jesus or how he learned of Jesus' kingdom, but he had greater faith than even the disciples.

Lk 24:17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, **their faces downcast**. ... 21 **But we trusted that** it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou** at this time **restore again the kingdom to Israel**?

15. Had the thief **seen** convincing evidence that Jesus would live again and **believe** that he was the savior?
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Mk 15:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that **we may see and believe**. And they that were **crucified with him reviled him**.

Lk 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me **when thou comest into thy kingdom**.
(If not, why did a man who knew he was to die ask another who was to die to remember him in his kingdom?)

16. Did Jesus forgive sins while on earth? _____

Lk 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven**. ... 50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee**; go in peace.

17. Why did Jesus forgive sins while on earth? _____

Mt 9:6 But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins**, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Mk 2:7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; **who can forgive sins but God alone**?"

18. Does the example of the thief on the cross set an example for us in the New Covenant or does it occur under the Law of Moses? _____ (Be sure to look at your answer again after you have covered the next section.)

The New Covenant

19. Who is the mediator of the new covenant? _____

Heb 9:15 For this reason **Christ is the mediator of a new covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

20. Why was the new covenant necessary? _____

Heb 8:7 For if there had been nothing **wrong with that first covenant**, no place would have been sought for another. ... 13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one **obsolete**; and what is obsolete and aging **will soon disappear**.

Col 2:14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and **that stood opposed to us**; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Acts 13:39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything **you could not be justified from by the law of Moses**.

21. How was the old covenant put into effect? _____

Heb 9:19 When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the **blood of calves**, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and **sprinkled** the scroll and all the people.

22. What had to occur before the new covenant went into effect? _____

Heb 9:16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the **death of the one** who made it. ... 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by **the sacrifice of Himself**.

23. When did the new covenant become effective? _____

Heb 9:15 For this reason **Christ is the mediator of a new covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. 16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only **when somebody has died**; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. (NIV)

24. With whose blood was the new covenant put into effect? _____

Heb 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. 23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did **he enter heaven to offer himself** again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with **blood** that is not his own.

25. Had Jesus died when the thief on the cross was forgiven of his sins? _____

Luke 23:40 But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "**Jesus**, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And **He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today** you shall be with Me in Paradise."

26. Was Jesus' new covenant in effect when the thief on the cross was forgiven of his sins? _____

Heb 9:16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the **death of the one** who made it. ... 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by **the sacrifice of Himself**.

27. Was the thief living under the time of Jeremiah or under another time prophesied by Jeremiah? _____

Jer 31:31 "The **time is coming**," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will **put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

28. If Jesus had to die before his covenant went into effect, what covenant did the thief on the cross live and die under?

29. What covenant was the woman who washed Jesus' feet under when he forgave her sins? _____

Luke 7:47 "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

30. Was the Hebrew writer mistaken when he said it was necessary for Jesus to give his blood to inaugurate the new covenant? _____

31. Was the new covenant in force before Jesus' death? _____

Heb 9:17 because a will is in force only **when somebody has died**; it **never** takes effect while the one who made it is living.

32. If the new covenant wasn't in force before Jesus' death, is the example of the thief on the cross valid under the new covenant as an example that baptism was not necessary for salvation? _____

33. If we take one thing from the old covenant (the Law of Moses) are we not bound to do the whole law? _____

Gal 5:3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is **obligated to obey the whole law**. 4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

34. Did Jesus keep the law while on earth? _____

Mt 23:2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must **obey them and do everything they tell you**. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

35. Are we to keep Moses' law today or the law of Christ? _____

II Jn 9 Anyone who runs ahead and **does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God**; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

Please return this lesson to receive the second in the series.

Baptism! Where Does It Fit in God's Plan?

36. Is there an example under the new covenant of a conversion where baptism is not present? Let's take a look at the Scriptures.

Who Saves Us and by What Means?

What role does baptism play in the life of a Christian or a sinner? What role do grace, belief, confession of Jesus, confession of sins and repentance play in our salvation? What is baptism? What does baptism do? What is baptism for? What does baptism mean? Is baptism necessary for salvation? What saves us? Let's search the Scriptures to find out what God has to say about these questions.

37. First, what does the Bible say saves us?

I Tim 4:10 (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living **God**, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. _____

Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save** his people from their sins." _____

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been **justified by his blood**, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! _____

1 Cor 15:1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this **gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. _____

Eph 2:8 For it is by **grace you have been saved**, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- _____

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, _____

Ja 2:24 You see that a person is **justified by what he does and not by faith alone**. _____

Rom 8:24 For in this **hope we were saved**. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? _____

1 Pet 3:21 and this water symbolizes **baptism that now saves you** also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It **saves you** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, _____

Acts 2:40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "**Save yourselves** from this corrupt generation." (NIV)

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves** from this untoward generation. (KJV) _____

Rom 10:9 That if you **confess** with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved**. _____

38. Can we be saved by any one of the things in the list above alone? _____

39. Can we be saved if any one of the things in the list above were missing? _____

40. For instance, can we be saved without Christ? _____

41. Can we be saved without God's grace? _____

42. Can we be saved without confessing Jesus as Lord? _____

43. Can we be saved without the blood of Jesus Christ? _____

44. Can we be saved without baptism? _____

We must realize that without the grace of God in giving His son to die on the cross, none of the other things above would save us, for without the cleansing blood of Jesus we are lost. It is only the combination of all of the things which the Scriptures say saves us, that we we can be saved. If you don't agree with this statement, please tell us why.

45. What were the disciples commanded to do? _____

Mt 28:19 Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

46. When Jesus taught the disciples this, what had he just told them to do to those who were disciples? _____

Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

47. What must we do today if we have been taught what Jesus commanded his disciples? _____

Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

48. Does it matter if we do not obey the gospel? _____

2 Th 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus.

1 Pet 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who **do not obey the gospel of God**? _____

1 Cor 15:1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this **gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

Are We Saved by the Grace of God or by Works?

49. Will we be saved if we follow our conscience sincerely? _____ (Was Paul saved by following his conscience?)

Acts 23:1 Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all **good conscience** to this day."

1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner--of whom I am the worst.

50. If we believe, does it matter if we don't obey God? _____

John 3:36 (NASB) "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he **who does not obey the Son shall not see life**, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Heb 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for **all who obey him**

Matt 7:21 (NIV) "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only **he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.

51. Are we saved by the grace of God or works? _____

Eph 2:8 For it is by **grace you have been saved**, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Ja 2:24 You see that a person is **justified by what he does and not by faith alone**.

52. Is belief a work? _____

Jn 6:28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The **work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**"

53. What are the works that we must do? _____

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

54. Must we repent in order to be saved? _____

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands **all people everywhere to repent**.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no! But **unless you repent, you too will all perish**.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance**.

55. Must we confess in order to be saved? _____

Rom 10:9 That if you **confess with your mouth**, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you **confess and are saved**.

Matt 10:32 "Whoever **acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven**. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

56. Which comes first, repentance, confession or belief? _____
57. Would one confess that which he or she did not believe? _____
58. Would one repent if he or she did not believe the message preached? _____
59. Can one confess that Jesus is the Christ if he or she doesn't believe Jesus is the Christ? _____
60. Can one be saved without confessing Jesus? _____

John 12:42 Yet at the same time **many even among the leaders believed in him**. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; **43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God**.

61. What role does baptism play in the life of a Christian or a sinner? Let's take a look at the Scriptures.
63. How many baptisms are there that disciples today are to undergo? _____

Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**;

Acts 8:36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain **water**: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be **baptized**?

The Baptism of John

64. Was John the Baptist's baptism the one spoken of here? _____

Acts 19:3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "**John's baptism**," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a **baptism of repentance**. He told the people to **believe in the one coming after him**, that is, in Jesus."

65. Was John's baptism limited to a certain group of people? _____

Acts 13:24 Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism **to all the people of Israel**.

66. Was the Holy Spirit a part of John's baptism? _____

Acts 19:2 and asked them, "Did you **receive the Holy Spirit when you believed**?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "**John's baptism**," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

67. Since John's baptism was limited, temporary and did not include the Holy Spirit, was it the **one baptism** that Jesus commanded his disciples to practice? _____

Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

Mk 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes **and is baptized will be saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

The Baptism of Jesus

68. Jesus spoke of another baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4-5. Was this the baptism the disciples were to undergo? _____

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John **baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**"

Jn 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

69. Was this promise ever fulfilled? _____

Acts 2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

70. Was Holy Spirit baptism the one the disciples were to teach and that all men were to receive? _____
(Please review your answer again after completing this section.)

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the **good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 **Simon himself believed and was baptized**. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

71. What did Philip teach both the Samaritan and the Eunuch? _____

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the **good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the **good news about Jesus**.

72. What baptism did the Eunuch want? _____

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the **good news about Jesus**. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some **water** and the eunuch said, "Look, **here is water**. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the **water** and Philip baptized him.

73. The Gentiles in Cornelius' household had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit from God.

Acts 11:16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 **So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us**, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

74. What did this baptism of the Holy Spirit signify? _____

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone **keep these people from being baptized with water**? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

75. Did Peter want the converts in Cornelius' household to be baptized in the Holy Spirit or in water? _____

Acts 10:45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone keep these people from being **baptized with water**? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

76. How many baptisms are there today? _____

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- 5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**;

77. Did Peter and Philip misunderstand Jesus' teaching about baptism when they baptized in water? _____

Jn 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

78. What did Jesus command his disciples to do? _____

Mt 28:19 Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever **believes and is baptized** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

79. Was baptism included in preaching Jesus? _____

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the **good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the **good news about Jesus**. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some **water** and the eunuch said, "Look, **here is water**. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the **water** and Philip baptized him.

80. Was baptism a part of the gospel message preached at the foundation of the church of our Lord? _____

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and **be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism! Where Does It Fit in God’s Plan? The Conversions in the New Testament

81. In the teaching of the disciples and the conversions shown in Acts, what did the people involved do in every case? _____

	heard the word	believed	repented	confessed	baptized	when
Pentecost	Acts 2:14-38	Acts 2:41	Acts 2:38	Acts 2:37(cried out)	Acts 2:38, 41	same day
Samaritans	Acts 8:12	Acts 8:12			Acts 8:12	at belief
Eunuch	Acts 8:35	Acts 8:36(37)			Acts 8:38	during lesson
Saul	Acts 9:17-18				Acts 9:18	upon hearing
Cornelius	Acts 10:34	Acts 10:43			Acts 10:48	same day
Lydia	Acts 16:13				Acts 16:15	immediately
Jailer	Acts 16:32	Acts 16:31			Acts 16:33	same hour
Corinthians	Acts 18:8	Acts 18:8			Acts 18:8	upon belief
Ephesians	Acts 19:4				Acts 19:5	immediately

82. Did any of those converted to Christ in the New Testament (that is under the new covenant) stop at belief or was more required of them? _____

83. Were any of those converted to Christ in the NT told to pray the sinner’s prayer? _____

84. Were any of those converted to Christ in the NT told to “accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior”? _____

85. Did Peter tell the listeners on Pentecost, “Repent and pray because you have had your sins forgiven and you have received the Holy Spirit? _____”

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized, every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

At this point some may go to the Greek scholars to prove that baptism is because of the remission of sins, based on the translation of the Greek word *eis*. Before you accept this idea, please consider the conversion of Saul of Tarsus in the next few questions.

86. Did Saul believe in Jesus when he had the vision on the road to Damascus? _____

Acts 9:4 (KJV) And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, **Who art thou, Lord?** And the Lord said, **I am Jesus** whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and **it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

87. Did Saul do what Jesus asked him to do? _____

Acts 22:11 (KJS) And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being **led by the hand** of them that were with me, **I came into Damascus**. 12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and **shouldest hear the voice of his mouth**. 15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. 16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

86. When Paul prayed for three days, having believed (he did what the Lord told him to do) when he saw Jesus, was he saved? _____

Acts 9:9 (KJS) And he was **three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink**. 10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

88. If Paul was still in his sins (he was told to wash them away by being baptized), was he saved? _____
(Please review your answer after finishing the next section)

Acts 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and **wash your sins away**, calling on his name.'

Separation from God

89. What separates us from God? _____

Isa 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your **iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you**, so that he will not hear.

90. Do we walk with God if we are still in sin? _____

1 Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth**. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

91. Must we be in Christ in order to be saved (have our sins forgiven)? _____

Eph 4: 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as **in Christ** God forgave you.

Colo 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 **in whom** we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colo 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive **with Christ**. He forgave us all our sins,

Eph 1:7 **In him** we have redemption **through** his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

92. Can we get to God without being in Christ or going through him? _____

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "**I am the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Eph 3:12 **In him and through faith in him** we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

93. What do we have **in Christ**? _____

Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Eph 1:7 **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Eph 2:5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 **in whom** we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**,

1 Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this **life is in his Son**.

94. What does baptism do for us? _____

Puts us "in Christ"

Rom 6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**?

Gal 3:27 for all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ.

1Cor 12:13 For we were **all baptized by one Spirit** into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were **all given the one Spirit to drink**.

Results in forgiveness or cleansing of sins

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be **baptized and wash your sins away**, calling on his name.'

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, **cleansing her by the washing with water** through the word,

Puts one into the church, Christ's body.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the **church** (the number - NIV) daily such as should be saved. (KJV)

Eph 1:22 (NIV) And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the **church, 23 which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Gives us new life

Rom 6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live **a new life**.

Rom 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but **alive to God in Christ Jesus**.

Rom 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been **brought** from death **to life**; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

SAVES US

1Pet 3:21 and this water symbolizes **baptism** that now **saves** you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It **saves you** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

95. If Baptism **puts us into Christ, results in forgiveness of sins, puts us into the church which is Christ's body, gives us new life, and saves us**, can anyone say that baptism is not necessary for our salvation? _____

96. Is it necessary to obey the gospel (remember our Question 48)? _____

97. Is baptism an undeniable part of the gospel which was taught when men taught "Jesus"? _____
(See Acts 8:2, 36-38; Mk 16:15-16; Mt 28:18-20; Acts 18:8, Acts 16:30-31)

98. Does anyone who receives Jesus have **the right to become** a child of God or **is he** a child of God? _____

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become** children of God-- 13 children **born not of natural descent**, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The New Birth

99. Must we be born again to enter the kingdom of Heaven? _____

Jn 3:3 (KJS) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old?** can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

100. Did Nicodemus understand **how** a person could be born again? _____

Jn 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the **second time** into his **mother's womb**, and be born?

101. Was Nicodemus speaking of a physical birth or a spiritual birth? _____

102. Was Jesus speaking of a physical birth or a spiritual birth? _____

Jn 3:6 That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh; and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become** children of God-- 13 children **born not of natural descent**, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

103. When Jesus says that we must be born **again**, what does he mean by that word? _____

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become** children of God-- 13 children **born not of natural descent**, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

104. Is there any way to be born except by a woman? _____

Job 15:14 What is **man**, that he should be clean? and he which is **born of a woman**, that he should be righteous?

To this day, no man has ever been born that has not been carried in the womb of a woman. No egg (ovum) has been impregnated by sperm unless it had been taken from a ripened follicle on a woman's ovary. God has established this method for man to come into the world (Gen 3:16).

The word "again" is translated "from above" in the NRSV and in parentheses says "born anew" while Martin Luther translates the word as "born anew". Nicodemus has recognized that a second birth other than man's original physical birth must be under consideration.

105. Does Jesus address Nicodemus' question or does he talk about a man's original birth? _____

Jn 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

106. Since all men have been born of a woman, Jesus does not speak of the first birth but must explain that the second birth consists of what? _____

Jn 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jn 3:6 That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh; and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.

107. Was Jesus' kingdom one of flesh or of spirit? _____

Jn 18:36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle **not against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

108. If the second birth is one of "water and the spirit" what is Jesus talking about? _____

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost**;

109. When one is baptized, what gift do they receive? _____

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

The passages above in Questions 108 and 109 say the same thing about being regenerated (a new birth) and receiving the Holy Ghost (being renewed by the Holy Ghost).

110. At what point do sinners receive the Holy Spirit? _____

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

111. Do any other scriptures speak of baptism as a new birth? _____

Rom 6: 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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**. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now **if we be dead with Christ**, we believe that **we shall also live with him**: ... 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are **alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together** with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)

Col 3:1 If **ye then be risen with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which **are in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ... 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies** by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Two passages tell us how to get into Christ. Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ. Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death?

Col 2:12 Buried **with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are **risen with him through the faith** of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickeneth together with him**, having forgiven you all trespasses;

The Tokens of the Covenant

112. What was the token given by God to establish his covenant with Noah? _____

Gen 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

113. What was the token given by God to establish his covenant with Abraham? _____

Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be **a token of the covenant** betwixt me and you. ... 14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, **that soul shall be cut off** from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

114. If Abraham had refused the token of God's covenant with him, would he have been saved? _____

Rom 4:9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 And he **received the sign of circumcision, a seal** of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

115. If Moses had refused the token of God's covenant with him, would he have been saved? _____

Ex 4:24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the **LORD met him, and sought to kill him.** 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

116. What was the token given by God to establish his covenant with Jesus? _____

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the **circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him **through the faith of the operation** of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

117. If we refuse the token of God's covenant with us, have we been saved? _____

118. What shows our faith in the new birth? _____

1Pet 3:21 The like figure whereunto even **baptism** doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a **good conscience toward God**;) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

119. Can you have a good conscience toward God and not have been baptized for the remission of your sins?

1Pet 3:21 The like figure whereunto even **baptism** doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a **good conscience toward God**;) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

120. Does baptism wash away the sins of a repentant believer? _____

Acts 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, **be baptized and wash your sins away**, calling on his name.'

122. Why does water wash away our sins? _____

1Pet 3:21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but **the pledge a good conscience toward God**. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

At the close of this study, we kindly ask, "Have you done what your Lord commanded so that you might have a good conscience? If not, why not? Why not now?" Were you baptized for the right reason -- the remission of your sins -- or were you baptized to show an outward sign of an inward grace? Had you confessed Jesus as Lord or did you say, "I believe that God for Christ's sake, has forgiven me of my sins"? Was your appeal to man or to God?

If there is anything we can do to help you in your search to obey Jesus, let us know. We can be reached at 761-3795 or write to 2 Eastern St., Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061 for additional answers or a private study. Listen to WBGR, 860 AM between 12:30 and 1:30 P.M. on Saturday for a question and answer program that will help you answer your questions.

