

Questions: If someone decides to be baptized, is it right to hold off the baptism and teach that person more about the gospel to make sure of their commitment?

Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

With only a few hours (at most)  
study – with “Jesus” the only  
topic of discussion – the eunuch  
wants to be baptized.

Acts 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Let's look at what this man knew for  
sure —

1. He knew the God of the Bible

Acts 8:32 Now the passage of  
Scripture which he was reading  
was this: "He was led as a sheep  
to slaughter; And as a lamb  
before its shearer is silent, So He  
does not open His mouth.

33 "In humiliation His judgment  
was taken away; Who shall relate  
His generation? For His life is  
removed from the earth."

If Philip preached the same thing Peter did on Pentecost – Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified." ... 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at what this man knew for  
sure —

1. He knew the God of the Bible
2. He knew that Jesus was the Son  
of God.
3. He knew that Jesus died for him.
4. He knew that he needed to be  
baptized



What was the baptism for?

let each of you be baptized in the name  
of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of  
your sins

What if they had not baptized him  
immediately? Acts 8:39

And when they came up out of  
the water, the Spirit of the Lord  
snatched Philip away; and the  
eunuch saw him no more, but  
went on his way rejoicing.

He would have still been in his  
sins – lost – headed for hell!

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have  
made a separation between you  
and your God, And your sins  
have hidden His face from you,  
so that He does not hear.

Paul had been praying 3 days and  
nights (Acts 9.9, 11)

Acts 22:16 'And now why do you  
delay? Arise, and be baptized,  
and wash away your sins, calling  
on His name.'

1. Praying does not remove the sins of someone who hasn't been baptized.
2. Having a personal experience with the Lord doesn't remove sins.
3. Immersion of the believer for the remission of sins is required to wash away sin!

Churches that do not believe that baptism washes away sin wait for someone to learn more. After all, if one is saved when they believe, they certainly don't need baptism.

The difference for the believer is between salvation and eternal damnation – what if they die in the two or six weeks or months while they wait?

Acts 2.41 3,000 baptized that day.

Acts 2.47 Lord added those saved (baptized)  
to the church daily.

Acts 8.38 – eunuch baptized immediately

Acts 16.14 – Lydia and her household  
baptized immediately

Acts 16.33 Philippian jailer and his household  
baptized immediately

Question: Is denominational baptism acceptable to God?

Some churches of Christ in the area teach that if one “accepts Jesus” and has been baptized, that is sufficient.



# Denominational Baptism Problems:

Not for the remission of sins (salvation by faith *sola fide*)

Northern, Southern, Primitive, Missionary Baptist – 27 major groups; Methodist; Lutheran; etc.) - a church ordinance for membership but not necessary for salvation which is by grace alone.

# Denominational Baptism Problems:

Not done with a belief in the God of the Bible.

Mormons (God was once human and we can become gods)

Jehovah Witnesses – Jesus was a created being and not God, but a god.

# Denominational Baptism Problems:

Oneness Pentecostal - Wrong God as Jesus is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, all of whom are one person. Must be called by the Holy Spirit.

Trinitarian Pentecostal –Must be called by the Holy Spirit and may require indwelling of Holy Spirit to be baptized (exhibit a miraculous gift).

## Denominational Baptism problems:

May have been for forgiveness of original sin as an infant, even though the non-believing infant now believes as an adult –

Roman Catholic - sprinkled  
Greek Orthodox - immersed

# Denominational Baptism Problems:

May have been incorrectly administered,  
i.e., Sprinkling or pouring vs. immersion  
of a believer —

Roman Catholic sprinkling of infants and  
adults.

Greek Orthodox immersion of infants.

Baptism (Greek *baptiso*, to immerse) is  
for the remission – removal - of sins,  
Acts 2.38; Acts 22.16;  
and justifies, Gal 3.24-27, i.e., saves us  
1Pet 3.21.

Baptism is for the removal of the sins of  
the person baptized. Isa 59.1-2, Ezek  
18.20 Acts 2.38 Acts 22.16

Without proper baptism, a person remains in their  
sins, separated from God

Have you done what Jesus told his disciples to do?

Mat 28:19-20 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."