

BAPTISM

*The Significance and Symbolism of Water
Baptism*

An Excursus on Acts 2:38

Baptism: Meaning

Baptism is an outward sign of...

- (1) Our *purification* from sin
- (2) Our *identification* with Christ

Baptism: Importance

Acts 2:38: “Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ *for the forgiveness of your sins...*”

- **Mark 16:15-16**
- **Acts 22:16**
- **Romans 6:4**
- **Colossians 2:12**
- **Galatians 3:27**
- **1 Peter 3:21**

Baptism: Importance

Saving Effects

1. Baptism is closely associated with the effects of saving faith
 - Forgiveness, cleansing, union with Christ, salvation

Baptism: Importance

Saving Effects

2. Part of the “conversion event”

- ❑ Repentance/faith, reception of the Spirit, water baptism
 - ❑ “Baptism” is used as a synonym for salvation
- ❖ *The concept of an “unbaptized believer” is foreign to the NT*

Baptism: Importance

Baptism and Salvation

➤ *Relationship of Faith and Baptism*

1. Baptism is the outward confession of faith; the completion of faith

Acts 22:16

- calling on God is inherent in the rite of water baptism

1 Peter 3:21

- baptism is an “appeal” or pledge to God (this is what saves, not the water)

Inward faith always calls on God

-- Romans 10:9-10

Baptism is the God-ordained, symbolic expression of calling on God

Q: Is water baptism necessary for salvation?

A: NO

Baptism: Importance

Baptism and Salvation

➤ *Relationship of Faith and Baptism*

1. Baptism is the outward confession of faith; the completion of faith
2. Baptism itself contributes nothing to the saving nature of faith

A. Baptism itself is not efficacious

- Not the instrumental cause of our justification (*ex opere operato*)
- Baptism is always seen in obvious connection to conscious faith

B. Baptism is the symbol not the essence of saving faith

- Faith alone is the instrumental cause (means) of our justification

Baptism: Importance

Conclusion:

- ❖ Baptism is *not* necessary for salvation and forgiveness
- ❖ Baptism is necessary as the God-ordained sign of calling on Him