

Salvation: Is It Before Or After Baptism?

I would encourage everyone to read the following scriptures before continuing to read this article. **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16; & I Peter 3:21.**

Understand that since God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33), everyone with an open mind to God's Word should be able to come to the same conclusion on what the Bible has to say about Baptism. Many will be quick to point out that John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; and Acts 16:31 say nothing about Baptism and therefore conclude that it cannot be essential for salvation.

A person who goes to one passage of scripture to prove his belief on salvation will have many problems trying to harmonize it with other passages. For example, neither John 3:16 or Eph. 2:8-9 mention anything about repentance, yet who would tell you that repentance is not necessary for salvation? Obviously, the correct and most logical approach is to take "**ALL**" that is said on the subject of salvation. If we take that and obey it, we can be assured that we are following what God expects of us.

I do not believe that there is "one verse" that contains the entire plan of salvation. If such were the case, God would indeed be the author of confusion because there are multiple verses that talk about the subject of salvation. The scriptures I included at the beginning are not THE plan of salvation but they certainly must be included in it.

Is baptism necessary for one to be saved? The question should not be hard to answer. The Bible is clear about it. The problem lies in what we are going to do about it. Many people have spent a countless amount of time trying to explain away these clear passages of scripture. Would it not be easier to just accept what it says and concentrate our effort on pleasing God? What one accepts as true will determine our future destiny. Baptism **CANNOT** be "*for remission of sins*" and "*not for the remission of sins*" at the same time. One is true and the other is false. Based on the Word of God, you make the final decision. We stand ready to study the Word of God with you!

- Shane Williams