

## Basics of Baptism

Study the Bible to learn about the one baptism (Ephesians 4:5):

1. **Jesus' blood washes us from sin in baptism** (Romans 6:3) We are baptized into Christ's death. His death was the occasion when He offered His body and blood for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). His blood washes us when we are baptized into His death.
2. **Happens after belief** (Mark 16:16) God did not reveal "infant baptism." Belief is before baptism.
3. **Means immersion** (Romans 6:4, *buried*) To be "baptized" by being sprinkled with water is like running by hopping. Running is not hopping, and baptism is not sprinkling. Baptism is a burial.
4. **In water** (Acts 8:38)
5. **For the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28)
6. **Adds us to the church** [the saved] (1 Corinthians 12:13)
7. **Is a part of calling on the name of the Lord** (Acts 22:16) We cannot call upon the Lord for salvation by faith or words alone—it must include the one baptism.
8. **Saves us** (1 Peter 3:21) Have you been taught that baptism does not save us? Read Peter's words!

## The Thief on the Cross & Baptism

After reading "Basics of Baptism," a reader called asking about the crucified thief saved by Jesus. This caller said "I just wondered where he had been baptized."

1. Many people today assume that the thief had never been baptized. Mark 1:5 says "And all the land of Judea... were all baptized..."--was the thief one of them? We cannot know, so it is vain to try to "prove a point" this way. I do not teach that baptism is essential "because the thief did it." Sadly, people today believe that baptism is not essential "because the thief didn't do it." That cannot be proved. Thus, it does not prove that baptism is not for the remission of sins today, as Acts 2:38 says it is.

2. Jesus' death established the new covenant (Matthew 26:28). When the thief spoke with Jesus, the new covenant was **not yet given** because Jesus had not yet died. The article above is a study of baptism under the new covenant.

3. Did the thief believe that God had raised Jesus from the dead? Of course not (Jesus had not yet died). Since the thief was saved without this belief, can you be saved without that belief? Of course not, but this is how some people view baptism.

Mark 16:16 has not changed-- *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.* (Mark 16:16). If you want Jesus to save you, what did He say you must do?

We welcome your comments or questions.