

Father, so we also might walk in **newness of life.**" (Baptism, *then* ⇒ Newness of Life).

1 Peter 3:21 — "...which also after a true likeness **doth now save you, even baptism**, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (Baptism is said to save us).

In each passage where baptism and salvation are used in the same context, the act of baptism *always precedes* salvation.

SAVED BY BAPTISM?

The apostle Paul points out that man is saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). Is man saved, and *then receives the grace of God?* No, grace is a vehicle through which man is saved. Man is saved by faith (Romans 5:1). Is man saved and *then believes* that Jesus is the Son of God? No, for faith is a vehicle through which man becomes a Christian. Man is saved by obedience (Acts 2:41 and James 2:24). Is man saved and *then obeys* the teachings of God? No, for it is through his obedience that he can be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). The Bible also teaches that we are saved by baptism (1 Peter 3:21). Can man be *saved and then be baptized?* No more than one can be saved by faith and then believe on Jesus after he has obtained salvation. Baptism is a vehicle through which man is saved, just as grace, faith, mercy, and obedience. Yes . . . Baptism saves!

In passages where baptism and salvation are used in the same context, baptism always precedes salvation. This is brought into union with the blood of Christ which removes our sin (Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 1:5; and Romans 6:1-4). No man can be saved without the precious blood of Jesus, and to come in contact with his blood we must be baptized into his death.

I. ISN'T THE BAPTISM MENTIONED IN ACTS 2:38 AND ROMANS 6:1-4 HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM?

The answer to this question is found in Matthew 28:19-20, where Jesus stated, "**Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**" In this passage Jesus commanded his apostles to:

- **Go make disciples**
- **Baptizing them**
- **Teaching them whatsoever he commanded — that is:**
- **Go make disciples**

Thus we see that the baptism Jesus commanded was a baptism administered by man.

Holy Spirit baptism is administered by divinity (Matthew 3:11). Baptism of the Holy Spirit was never a command but a promise (John 14:16-26; John 16:13). In these passages the promise was made to the twelve apostles, and the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost.

II. WHAT ABOUT THE TRANSLATION OF ACTS 2:38?

"And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto **the remission of your sins**; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Can't this be translated, "...and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **because of the remission of your sins...**"?

The same grammatical construction appears in Matthew 26:28, which reads, "...for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **unto remission of sins.**"

We know that this is impossible; if remission of sins were available to and attainable by man, then Christ would *not* have had to die. Jesus died that man could obtain forgiveness (Romans 5:8-10 and Hebrews 9:22).

Of all the translations of the scripture available for study, I do not know of a single translation which renders Acts 2:38, "Because of remission of sins." Each translation renders Acts 2:38 in such a way as to show that baptism is required for remission of sins.

III. WAS JESUS BAPTIZED FOR REMISSION OF SINS?

No, Jesus was not baptized for remission of sins. Jesus was born, lived and died under the Law which came by Moses (John 1:17; Galatians 4:4). Our Lord committed no sin (1 Peter 2:22). He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15), and to be our example (1 Peter 2:21-25). Jesus would have been guilty of sin if he had failed to be baptized because he would not have fulfilled all righteousness.

IV. IF BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION, HOW DO YOU BAPTIZE IN A DESERT PLACE AS PHILIP DID IN ACTS 8:26 AND 37?

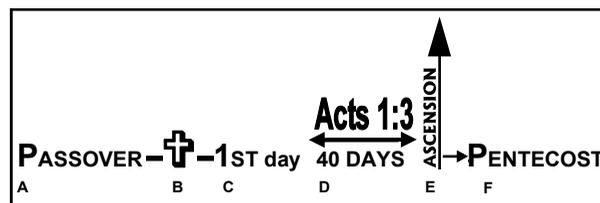
The word *desert* used in Acts 8:26 is the same Greek word used in Mark 6:32 and 35. It is defined as:

"of a place abandoned, empty, desolate and lonely."
(*A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament* by W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich, p. 308).

A careful reading of Mark 6:32-39 will point out that in this deserted, lonely place, Jesus bade the multitude to "sit on the green grass" (Mark 6:39).

V. WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS? HE WAS SAVED WHILE ON THE CROSS AND HE WASN'T BAPTIZED

Note carefully the following chart: Jesus observed the Passover with his apostles (a), was crucified (b), rose from the dead on the first day of the week (c), appeared unto them by the space of forty days, Acts 1:3 (d), ascended to the Father's right hand, Acts 1:9 (e). One of the last commands he gave them before he left them was:



1. Go preach the Gospel and baptize (Matthew 28:18f., Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47).
2. Where was the thief when Jesus commanded baptism for remission of sins? He had been dead for 43 days!

In Acts, chapter 2, we have the first account of the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached to sinners (f). They were convicted and in answer to their question, "**What must we do?**" Peter told them, "**Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins**" (Acts 2:36-38). This is exactly what Jesus had commanded the apostles to do (Matthew 28:18f. and Mark 16:15-16). Where was the thief? He had been dead for 53 days!

There is no possible way that the thief could have been baptized under Jesus' baptism:

1. He had been dead 43 days before Jesus commanded it.
2. He had been dead at least 53 days before Peter preached it as a term of God's forgiveness.

VI. I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT

To be a proper subject for baptism one must repent of sins. Of what sin can a child repent?

1. Sin is a transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). What law of God does an infant transgress?
2. An infant cannot be guilty of the sin of another (Ezekiel 18:1-2 and 19-24; II Corinthians 5:10).

Baptism is a burial in water, not sprinkling water on an infant (Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:37), and to be scripturally baptized we must follow the teachings of God's word.

VII. THE FIRST CONVERTS

The first converts to Jesus the Son of God were told, "**...repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins...**" If you haven't obeyed this command of Jesus (Mark 16:16), as proclaimed by Peter (Acts 2:38), you need today to submit your will to him. May God bless you to this end!

VIII. THE LORD'S TEACHING CONCERNING SALVATION

1. Sinner Must Have Faith — Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6.
2. Sinner Must Repent of Sins — Luke 13:3 & 5; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30.
3. Sinner Must Confess Jesus as The Christ — Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10; Mark 14:61-62; I Timothy 6:13-14.
4. Sinner Must Be Baptized into The Death of Jesus to be Cleansed by His Blood.
5. Christian Must Live Faithful Unto Death — Revelation 2:10

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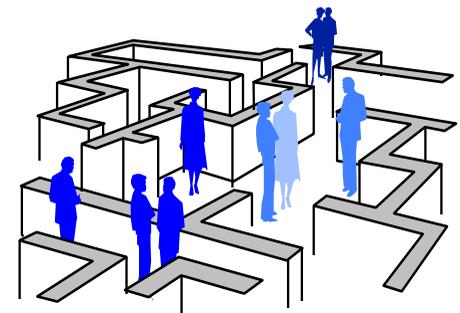
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SALVATION

FROM



SIN

By

Thomas F. Eaves, Sr.