

**BAPTISM IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION**  
**(Acts 2:37-47)**

**I. Because baptism is for the remission of sins.**

- A. Acts 2:38.
- B. This verse is the beginning of the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
  - 1. Mark 16:15 says to preach the gospel so baptism is part of the gospel message.
  - 2. John 16:13 is fulfilled in Acts 2 so we see that baptism is part of “all truth” that the Holy Spirit would bring to the apostles.
- C. We also need to look at verses 40-41.
  - 1. Peter told these people to save themselves and then we read that many believed and were baptized.
  - 2. This shows that baptism is necessary for salvation.
  - 3. When you combine this with Acts 10 where Peter was to tell Cornelius words by which he was to be saved and part of those words were the command to be baptized, one sees that baptism is necessary for salvation.
- D. The word “and” in Acts 2:38 is extremely important.
  - 1. It is a copulative conjunction which joins two things of equal value.
  - 2. This means what one of the parts is for the other is also.
  - 3. What if we heard the phrase “Sign up and pay for your entry fee.”
    - a. Would any of us just sign up and expect to be entered?
    - b. Would any of us give money with no record of who it is from and expect to be entered?
    - c. We know it takes signing up & paying to enter.
  - 4. In order to obtain the remission of sins we must repent and be baptized.
- E. The word “for” is also very important.
  - 1. Some say that it means because of - repent and be baptized because of the remission of sins.
  - 2. “For” means in order to obtain and is the Greek word *eis*.
  - 3. It is used in Matthew 26:28.
  - 4. Do we think Jesus shed His blood because of remission of sins or in order to obtain remission of sins?
  - 5. Any time *eis* stands between a command and a blessing the blessing can't be obtained until command is obeyed.
    - a. Romans 10:8-10 - believe **eis** unto righteousness.
    - b. Acts 11:18 - repent **eis** unto life.
    - c. Romans 10:8-10 - confess **eis** unto salvation.
    - d. Ac 2:38 - baptized **eis** unto remission.
  - 6. Because of the link with “and,” if you make baptism “because of” you must make repent “because of.”
- F. All of these show that baptism is for the remission of sins and necessary for salvation.

**II. Baptism is necessary to conversion.**

- A. Acts 3:19.
- B. This is a parallel passage with Acts 2:38.
- C. Notice this parallel:

1. Repent, be baptized, remission of sins.
  2. Repent, be converted, sins blotted out.
- D. Conversion is necessary to:
1. Enter the kingdom (Matthew 18:1-4).
  2. Being forgiven (Mark 4:12).

**III. Baptism is a divine imperative.**

- A. Saul was told to go to Damascus and wait to be told what he must do (Acts 9:6).
1. Not what he can or may do but must do.
  2. When Ananias comes he says...(Acts 22:16).
- B. Jesus told Nicodemus...(John 3:7 - "must").

**IV. Baptism is a command.**

- A. Acts 10:47-48.
1. It was not a suggestion to them.
  2. It was not a good idea or something optional.
- B. If we love the Lord we will keep His commandments.

**V. Baptism is necessary to washing away sin and calling on the name of the Lord.**

- A. Acts 22:16.
- B. Also, on the day of Pentecost the apostles quote Joel 2:32.
1. When the people ask what to do, they are told to repent and be baptized.
  2. This is what it means to call on the name of the Lord.
- C. Baptism is necessary for washing away of sin in this passage.
1. Hebrews 10:22; Titus 3:5.
  2. Someone might say, "I thought the blood washes away sin."
    - a. It does.
    - b. Revelation 1:5.
  3. We come into contact with the blood at baptism (Romans 6:3; John 19:34).
  4. Notice these statements:
    - a. Blood washes (Revelation 1:5) and remits (Matthew 26:28).
    - b. Baptism washes (Acts 22:16) and remits (Acts 2:38).
    - c. Conclusion - sins washed away by the blood in baptism; sins remitted by the blood in baptism.
- D. Some say that Saul was saved on the road because he said he was born out of due season.
1. If this is the case, Ananias nor Saul knew he was saved.
  2. Paul was born out of dues season in the sense that he did not see Jesus during the Lord's personal ministry.
- E. Some say he was saved before baptism because he received his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit.
1. We are told that John the Baptizer was filled with the Holy Spirit from His mother's womb (Luke 1:15).
  2. If filled with the Holy Spirit means Paul was saved, it means that John was saved before faith.
  3. We know this cannot be the case.