

THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM (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 Comm.
 - 1. Mk 16:15 says to preach the gospel so baptism is part of the gospel message.
 - 2. Jn 16:13 is fulfilled in Acts 2 so we see that baptism is part of “all truth” that the HS would bring to the apostles.
 - C. We also need to look at vs’s 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 Gr word *eis*.
 - 3. It is used in Ma 26:28.
 - 4. Do we think Jesus said 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. Ro 10:8-10 - believe *eis* unto righteousness.
 - b. Ac 11:18 - repent *eis* unto life.
 - c. Ro 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. Ac 3:19.
- B. This is a parallel passage with Ac 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 (Ma 18:1-4).
 - 2. Being forgiven (Mk 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 (Ac 9:6).
 - 1. Not what he can or may do but must do.
 - 2. When Ananias comes he says...(Ac 22:16).
- B. Jesus told Nicodemus...(John 3:7 - must).

IV. **Baptism is a command.**

- A. Ac 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. Ac 22:16.
- B. Also, on the day of Pentecost the 12 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. He 10:22; Ti 3:5.
 - 2. Someone might say, "I thought the blood washes away sin."
 - a. It does.
 - b. Re 1:5.
 - 3. We come into contact with the blood at baptism (Ro 6:3; Jn 19:34).
 - 4. Notice these statements:
 - a. Blood washes (Re 1:5) & remits (Ma 26:28).
 - b. Baptism washes (Ac 22:16) & remits (Ac 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 HS.
 - 1. We are told that John the Baptizer was filled with the HS from His mother's womb (Lu 1:15).

2. If filled with the HS means Paul was saved, it means that John was saved before faith.
3. We know this cannot be the case.