Why Was I Baptized?

What is baptism and why was I baptized?

The word baptism is a Greek word that has been transliterated into English. It means immersion. Immersion is "the act of putting someone or something completely in a liquid" (Merriam-Webster dictionary).

So why do I need to be immersed in water? The short answers are:

(1) it is commanded by God in His Word (the Holy Bible),
(2) it washes away my sins, and
(3) it adds me to the church/the kingdom, which is Christ's body (Colossians 1:18).

Baptism is commanded by God in His Word (the Holy Bible).

- Jesus commanded that all nations be baptized in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…."
- Jesus said that those not baptized shall be condemned in Mark 16:15-16, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." *Note: If a person does not believe then, of course, they will not be baptized. Therefore Jesus did not need to say, "he who does not believe and is not baptized will be condemned."*
- Jesus said that unless a man is baptized, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God in John 3:5, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
- Every example of a person becoming a Christian in the New Testament involved baptism:
  - Acts 8:12-13, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God [the church], and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized…"
  - Acts 8:36-38, "…and the eunuch said, See here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water…"
  - Acts 9:18, "Immediately there fell from his [Paul's] eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."

- Acts 10:48, "…and he [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." It was not optional. It was a command!
- Acts 16:15, "And when she [Lydia] and her household were baptized…"
- Acts 16:33, "…And immediately he [Philippian jailer] and all is family were baptized."
- Acts 18:8, "Then Crispus the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing believed and were baptized."

If I am never baptized, how can I be in complete obedience to God, Christ, and the Holy Bible?

Baptism washes away my sins.

- Peter told the Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."
- Ananias told Paul in Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- Paul said in Colossians 2:12-13, "Buried with Him [Christ] in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him having forgiven you all trespasses."
- Peter also said in I Peter 3:21, "There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The water itself, of course, does not literally wash away my sins but it figuratively represents my agreement to obey God and my obedience to be baptized washes away my sins in the eyes of God. God could have done it another way. He could have said jump up and down 12 times on one foot and I will forgive you but He chose this method—a figurative burial of the old sinful man and a resurrection of the new sinless man. Paul described baptism very well in Romans 6:3-4, "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

If I am never baptized, how can I have my sins forgiven (washed away) by God?

Baptism adds me to the church/kingdom which is Christ's body.

- Paul said that baptism gets me into Christ in Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Man cannot get to Heaven and get to God except through Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Paul said in Romans 3:23-24, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus…"

If I am never baptized, how can I get into Christ and then into Heaven?

- Luke said baptism gets us added to the church (the body of Christ) in Acts 2:41, 47, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them [the church] about three thousand souls...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
- Paul said in I Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body [the church]..."

If am never baptized, how can I be added to the church (the body of Christ/the kingdom)?

Finally, why do I need to be a member of Christ's body—the church—the kingdom? For those who died before the church was established in A.D. 33, they needed to be obedient to God in order to go to Heaven. For us today, Christ's church and ONLY Christ's church will be taken to Heaven.

I Corinthians 15:24, "Then comes the end, when He [Christ] delivers the kingdom [church] to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and all power."

So, I was baptized because God commanded me to be baptized. It washed away my sins in God's eyes. It added me to the church/kingdom which is the body of Christ.