

## God's Plan of Salvation

Please read these verses with an open heart, an open mind, and no prejudice and see what conclusions you can make. I am not pulling these verses out of context. I know what the context is for each and every verse. If you are reading this paper, please feel free to read the verses before and after to understand the context. I am simply trying to limit the length of this paper.

### Verses

- Jesus said in Matthew 10:32-33, "...whoever **confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whosoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."
- Jesus told His disciples right before His ascension in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."
- Jesus told His disciples right before His ascension 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."
- Jesus said in Luke 13:3, 5, "**Unless you repent** you shall all likewise perish."
- Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"
- Peter told the people who had crucified Christ in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:38, "Repent and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins...**"
- Luke described what happened after Peter and the other apostles preached in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:41, 47. He said, "Then those who gladly received his word **were baptized**; and that day about 3,000 were added...And **the Lord added to the church** daily **those who were being saved.**"
- The Eunuch asked Philip in Acts 8:36-37, "See here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart**, you may." Philip confessed Jesus and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- Peter told Cornelius and his family in Acts 10:48, "And he **commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord."
- Ananias told Saul in Acts 22:16, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized and wash away your sins...**" A neat parallel to this verse is II Kings 5:14 where Naaman went and dipped seven times in the Jordan River and his leprosy was cleansed just like God commanded him to do. Was that dipping seven times a meritorious work? No, it was obedience to God's command and he was cleansed—not by the water but by God.
- Paul visualized baptism like this in Romans 6:3-4, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ** Jesus were **baptized into His death**? Therefore, we **were buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**"
- Paul said in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

- Paul told the church in Corinth in I Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body...**” The body is the church (Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23).
- Paul told the church in Galatia in Galatians 3:27, “For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ...**”
- Paul told the church in Colosse in Colossians 2:13, “**...buried with Him [Jesus] in baptism** in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being **dead in your trespasses...**He has made alive together with Him, having **forgiven you all trespasses.**”
- Peter was explaining how in the days of Noah, only eight souls were saved through water and then he said in I Peter 3:21, “There is also **an antitype which now saves us—baptism...**”

### Conclusions I Have Made

- I can only get faith by hearing the word of God—not by getting nudged by the Holy Spirit or having an emotional spiritual experience.
- I must repent or I will perish. Repentance means to change my mind.
- I must confess Jesus name before men.
- I must believe and be baptized to be saved.
- I can only be saved in Christ.
- Baptism washes away my sins/is for the remission of sins.
- Baptism is a commandment.
- I must believe before I can be baptized.
- Baptism is like a burial with Christ.
- I get into Christ by being baptized.
- I put on Christ by being baptized.
- I am a new person when I am baptized.
- Baptism adds me to the Lord’s church.
- I must be baptized in the name (or authority) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So, God's Plan of Salvation for man is:

1. Hear the Word of God.
2. Believe the Word of God.
3. Repent of my sins.
4. Confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
5. Be baptized for the remission of sins.
6. Remain faithful even unto death (Revelation 2:10).
7. Spend eternity in Heaven with God.

So many churches teach that baptism is NOT part of God’s Plan of Salvation. They may encourage baptism but it is for different reasons:

- To remove “original sin”—often done with babies. There is no such thing as original sin—read Ezekiel 18.
- To show my faith. Baptism is an act of obedience but is done BEFORE I am saved—not after.
- To join the church. We do not “join” a church. God adds us to the Lord’s church when we believe and are baptized just like Acts 2:41 and 47 states.

All of these baptisms are the WRONG baptism. Ephesians 4:4-6 says there is only ONE baptism. And that is water baptism for a believer. **If you were not baptized for the remissions of sins, you are not saved.** Remember the people in Ephesus in Acts 19 who were baptized with John’s baptism? When they learned about Christ’s baptism, they were baptized in the name of Jesus because they knew their baptism was not valid. Please re-consider your spiritual state.