



I. NT baptism was authorized by all 3 members of the Godhead shortly before the Lord ascended into heaven.

A. *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Go ye 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 whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen”-Matthew 28:18-20.

B. *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”-Mark 16:15 & 16.

C. Notes:

1. The phrase “in the name of,” means “by the authority of!”

2. God’s message about baptism is for “all nations;” not just certain chosen ethnic groups!!

II. The NT “mode” of baptism is by immersion!

A. The Greek noun for baptism is “baptisma,” and the word refers to an immersion, dipping, or burial in water.

B. The Greek verb for baptize is “baptidzo,” and the word refers to the act of being immersed, or buried in water.

C. Confusion about the mode of baptism has come because of 2 reasons:

1. Instead of being translated, the Greek words, baptisma and baptidzo have been transliterated; thus the noun, “baptisma,” has become “baptism,” and the verb “baptidzo,” has become “baptize!”

2. Denominational bodies have violated God’s word by substituting sprinkling and pouring for immersion!

D. Examples of correct translations:

1. *“Repent, and be immersed, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”-Acts 2:38.*

2. *“He who believes and is immersed shall be saved”-Mark 16:16.*

3. *“In those days came John the Immerser”-*
Matthew 3:1.

NOTE: NO ONE WOULD EVER ASK THE QUESTION:
“WHAT IS THE MODE OF IMMERSION?”

THE BIBLE REFERS TO BAPTISM AS A BURIAL:

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death”-Romans 6:4.

“Buried with him in baptism”-Colossians 2:12.

III. Age-wise, baptism is for men, women, and children! No specific age is given in the NT!

A. Men and women were baptized-Acts 8:12.

B. Elder’s children are to be Christians-Titus 1:5.

C. The house of Cornelius, Lydia, Crispus, the Philippian jailor, and Stephanas were baptized-see Acts 11:14; 16:15 & 34; 18:8; & I Corinthians 1:16. This would have included children!

Question: Have you ever looked up the word “child, or children” in a dictionary?

“child, children 1. A person between birth and puberty”-Webster’s II New College Dictionary, pg. 194.

D. Customarily in the church, the teaching has been when a child reaches “the age of accountability,” he is old enough to realize he is lost because of sin, to believe the gospel message, repent of his sins, confess Christ as Lord, and be baptized for the remission of his sins!

The exact age will depend on the child’s background!

NOTE: BABIES SHOULD NOT BE BAPTIZED SINCE THEY HAVE NOT SINNED, NOR CAN THEY BELIEVE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!

My experience in the church has taught me that most faithful Christian parents begin to get very concerned about their child if he or she has not been baptized by the time they are 12 or 13 years old! And, correctly so!

Many children are baptized prior to age 12!

IV. According to the NT, what's the purpose of baptism?

A. To Be saved:

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”-Mark 16:16.

Question:

Did the Lord say, “Believe only, and you’ll be saved?”

Did He say, “Be baptized only, and you’ll be saved?”

***“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”
-I Peter 3:21.***

Question: “If baptism saves, how can a person be saved without being baptized?”

B. Baptism is for the remission of sins.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”-Acts 2:38.

According to this text, both repentance AND baptism precede remission of sins, and both are necessary in order to have sins remitted!

C. Baptism is for the purpose of washing away sins.

“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”-Acts 22:16.

- 1. Saul had seen and heard the Lord-Acts 9:4; 22:14.**
- 2. Saul had believed on the Lord, and confessed Him as Lord-Acts 9:5 & 6.**
- 3. He was certainly sorrowful for his sins because he fasted 3 days without eating or drinking-Acts 9:9.**
- 4. Saul had been praying-Acts 9:11.**

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What does the NT record do with the denominational teaching that, “Saul was saved as soon as he fell off his horse!”**
- 2. The inspired record shows that teaching is false, doesn't it?**
- 3. What does the NT record of Saul's conversion do to the denominational doctrine of, “Say the sinner's prayer and you'll be saved?”**
Saul's sins weren't washed away when he prayed!
He wasn't saved when he “believed on the Lord!”
- 4. Was Saul saved on the 1st day after he was confronted with the Lord?**
- 5. Was he saved on the second day?**

Remember: Ananias came to Saul on the 3rd day, and even though he believed on the Lord, had confessed the Lord, was obviously penitent, and had prayed to the Lord, his sins were not washed away!!

“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”-Acts 22:16.

D. Baptism puts one into Christ.

“Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death?”-Romans 6:3.

Since salvation is in Christ (II Timothy 2:10), and one is baptized into Christ; how is it possible for one to be saved without being baptized into Christ?

V. Does insistence on baptism negate God's grace?

Let the bible give the answer:

*“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,
Not by works of righteousness which we have done,
but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit;*

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life”-Titus 3:4-7.



VI. When should a person be baptized?

A. Immediately upon conviction of the need to be baptized!

1. See the record in Acts 2:37-41.

2. See the record in Acts 16:25-33.

Note: It was way past midnight when the jailor and his household were baptized!

3. *“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized”-Acts 18:8.*

VII. If you’ve never been baptized into Christ in order to be saved, come now! Don’t delay!