

Is Baptism Necessary for
Salvation?

Many would say “No!”

“Requiring anything in addition to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is a works-based salvation. To add anything to the gospel is to say that Jesus' death on the cross was not sufficient to purchase our salvation. To say that baptism is necessary for salvation is to say we must add our own good works and obedience to Christ's death in order to make it sufficient for salvation. Jesus' death alone paid for our sins (Rom. 5:8). Jesus' payment for our sins is appropriated to our “account” by faith alone (Gal. 2:16). Therefore, baptism ... cannot be a requirement for salvation.”

Justification – Not by Works, but by His Blood

Romans 5:8–9 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”

Galatians 2:16 “A man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

Titus 3:5-7

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

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Washing

- Occurs 10x in the New Testament
- TDNT identifies two of these as normal washing without a spiritual significance
- “All the relevant passages show that, so far as theological usage is concerned, [they] are baptismal terms.”

Washed from Sin by His Blood

Romans 5:8-9 – “justified by His blood”

Matthew 26:28 - “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”

Revelation 1:5–6: “To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood**, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 10:12–22

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:12–22

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and **our bodies washed with pure water**

Washing is Water Baptism

Ephesians 5:25–26 (ESV) — Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Acts 22:16 (ESV) — And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Can this be True?

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Colossians 2:11–13

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him 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

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 - Because all of these are commands of God

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 - To be baptized is exactly the same

Faith/Belief is not a Work of the Law

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Baptism is a not a “Work of Righteousness”

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Can this be True?

“...baptism is the result of salvation not a contributor to it.... It is our contention that baptism is an important step of obedience for a Christian, but we adamantly reject baptism as being required for salvation.”

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Baptism is Necessary for Salvation

Mark 16:16 - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,