

Be Baptized Romans 6:3-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Is baptism _____ for the forgiveness of sins? Whenever we encounter a controversial topic, let's go to the Bible to find out what God thinks and _____ about the matter. The Bible is inspired of God and has the _____ of Jesus Christ and the apostles. It doesn't contain someone's opinion or some human tradition; it is truly God's Holy Word and deserves our attention and _____. There is no substitute for Scripture. Feelings and human customs are not on the same _____ as God's revealed Word. Many religious people often say, "You don't have to be baptized to be _____." They believe a doctrine that was never contemplated in the _____ until the 1500s. They misunderstand baptism and say it's a _____. They believe that since we're saved by _____ and not by works, that baptism could not possibly be necessary for salvation. But this notion misunderstands the _____ of baptism. Baptism is not a work of man but a work of _____. The grace of God works _____ baptism and _____ baptism.

No one should be baptized _____ they also believe in Christ Jesus and love God. In the Scriptures, baptism into Christ _____ a confession of faith and repentance. Faith and repentance are necessary to salvation. Repentance is a change of _____ that leads to a change of _____. One leaves the _____ ways of sin to embrace the way of the Lord. The idea that baptism alone saves is as objectionable as the notion that faith alone saves. It takes a complete _____ to get right with God and to enjoy eternal life. We must _____ to self if we wish to live eternally with God. Faith alone or baptism alone is not _____.

Our reading today comes from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 6, verses 3 to 7. Paul wrote to the church at Rome _____ them to understand the nature of baptism.

You may be asking the question, "Why should I be baptized?" I want to give you several _____ that will make a difference in your life, your soul, and your destiny! The Lord Jesus and the apostles from the very beginning of the church emphasized the _____ for baptism, and no one has the right to set aside the commandments that are found in Scripture or to substitute other things for baptism. Many say one is saved by faith alone _____ baptism. Others suggest that one is forgiven by merely _____ a "sinner's prayer." But no New Testament passage ever suggests salvation by a sinner's prayer; and no New Testament passage speaks of salvation by faith alone.

The doctrine of salvation by "faith alone" _____ other passages that require things necessary to our salvation. One cannot be saved, for instance, unless he _____ the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:22); one will perish if he's unwilling to _____ (Luke 13:3); and Jesus is the author of salvation to those who _____ Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). So, let's take a look at the

Scriptural reasons _____ everyone, out of love, should be baptized into Christ upon his confession of faith and repentance.

First, you should be baptized because the Lord _____ it. In John 3, Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and recognized Him as a _____ who had come from God. The Lord Jesus told him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’” (John 3:3-7).

Jesus is speaking in the strongest of terms about something that _____ be done. If you wish to _____ the kingdom of God you will not argue with the Lord. You will not try to _____ some substitute for an immersion in water. Baptism into Christ is an immersion and _____ both the water and the Spirit. Titus 3:5 also speaks of this new birth including both water and Spirit. “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, (and here’s how He does it) by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” Every ancient writer understood these passages to _____ to baptism in water.

Second, when you’re baptized you will be _____ with the Lord. The gospel message tells the _____ of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism into Christ _____ us with Christ in His death, His burial, and His resurrection. Going down into the water and coming up out of the water is _____ a burial and resurrection. **Read Romans 6:4-5.**

Colossians 2:12-13 gives a similar thought, “having been _____ with Him in baptism, in which you were also _____ up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were _____ in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you _____ together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.” Baptism is an act of _____ in the working of God. The command to be baptized is a passive imperative; that is, you _____ someone baptize you. Someone else is baptizing you; they are physically working on you! God is _____ working on you in baptism, uniting you with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and giving you newness of life.

The primary _____ of the word “baptism” is an immersion in water, a burial in water. Some consider sprinkling water or pouring water to be baptism, but they are substituting something that was _____ considered in Scripture. If God had wanted us to sprinkle or pour water, He would have used a _____ word than a word that speaks of immersion. A burial _____ an immersion. Sprinkling or pouring a little water, as some do, cannot _____ a burial. If you’ve been sprinkled, please consider your need to be immersed into Christ.

Third, when you’re baptized the Lord will _____ your sins and save you. The guilty people of Pentecost who crucified Jesus asked, “What shall we _____?” Peter said to them,

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). The purpose of repentance and baptism is to _____ the forgiveness of sins.

These guilty sinners _____ that they had sinned in crucifying Jesus, the Lord and Christ. They needed a _____ conscience. Peter wrote, “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an _____ to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is when we appeal to God for a good conscience.

Fourth, you should be baptized to become a _____ of God. **Read John 1:11-13.** When do we become God’s children? “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27).

The Bible never contemplates a saved believer who has _____ been baptized into Christ. The idea of someone being saved before and without baptism cannot be _____ in the New Testament and never arose until the 1500s. In Romans 6 and Galatians 3, the sons of God through faith were baptized into Christ, were crucified with Christ, and at that point were freed from sin, and had clothed themselves with Christ.

Merely believing doesn’t make one _____ with God. Faith alone is not enough to _____. **Read John 12:42-43.** Here were believers who would not _____ their faith and did not seek the approval of God.

Read James 2:18-20. James is not the only one who sees the necessity of _____ our faith by our works. Paul clearly says that he “received grace and apostleship to bring about the _____ of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake” (Romans 1:5). He argued that God “will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation” (Romans 2:6-8). Salvation requires that we obey the truth. **Read Romans 6:17-18.** Here it becomes clear: freedom from sin does not take place _____ one obeys from the heart!

No one can _____ his salvation; and we can’t work our way into heaven. Only the _____ of Christ can wash away our sins. God saves us, and only God can determine _____. He saves us. Works of obedience are not like works of _____. Works of obedience are merely _____ God’s conditions. They are like Naaman’s dipping _____ times in the Jordan River to receive healing from his leprosy. It’s like the blind man’s _____ in the pool of Siloam to receive his sight. Neither one of these simple acts _____ the amazing blessing that they received. Just as God asks us to _____ the condition of faith and repentance to receive salvation, so He asks us to be baptized.

Fifth, when you’re baptized, the Lord will _____ you to His church. Acts 2:41 says, “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.” They were added to the apostles as people who had committed themselves to

Christ. They were baptized in obedience to Peter's _____ and to receive the forgiveness they were seeking. Acts 2:47 also speaks of people being added. It says, "And the _____ was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." The phrase "their number" refers to the people who are in the _____. First Corinthians 12:13 gets specific, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one _____, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

The New Testament reveals the _____ of baptism when people convert to Jesus Christ. Three thousand _____ the Word and were baptized on the Day of Pentecost. When the Samaritans believed the _____ of Philip about Jesus and His kingdom, they were baptized. The Eunuch didn't rejoice until _____ his baptism; he asked to be baptized. Ananias, likewise, told Saul of Tarsus not to _____ but to be baptized and wash away his sins. The Philippian jailer and his household considered baptism so important that they were baptized the _____ _____ of the night, way in the middle of the night. When the twelve disciples of John at Ephesus learned the whole _____ about Jesus Christ, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. If baptism were unnecessary to salvation, _____ did all these people act immediately and urgently? They acted urgently because they _____ baptism into Christ was necessary for their salvation and for their entrance into the eternal kingdom of God! They didn't want a day to go by _____ of the promises in Christ and the grace of God. They also knew people who had not been baptized were not yet in that grace or in the body of Christ.

When the Lord Jesus struck Saul of Tarsus blind on the road to Damascus, He didn't _____ Him at that time. Instead, He told him to go into Damascus and there it would be _____ him what he must do (Acts 9:6). Paul went into Damascus and didn't eat or drink anything for three days (verse 9). Paul was _____ (verse 11). Considering Paul's realization of his great sin against Christ—blasphemy, injuring people, stoning of Stephen, and many other crimes—Paul must have prayed fervently, confessing his sins and seeking forgiveness. When Ananias finally and reluctantly came to Saul after three days, he told him what he _____ do to wash away his sins. He didn't have him _____ a sinner's prayer. He didn't tell him that _____ alone was enough. He said, "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and _____ away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16). Saul of Tarsus needed his sins washed away; he still had an unwashed soul! He needed to be washed in the _____ of Jesus to be clean. That takes place when we're baptized into the _____ of Christ and crucified with Him. Only then will we be free from sin and not before (Romans 6:3-7).

Some teach salvation by faith alone or by a sinner's prayer, but you cannot find a single verse that teaches these things. We're saved by _____, but not by faith alone. To believe this doctrine, one must ignore other passages that show the necessity of love, obedience, repentance, and baptism. Don't pick one passage and ignore all the rest. There's a difference between the truth and the whole truth. Don't settle for anything less than the _____ truth. Get right with God, and don't wait. You don't know what tomorrow will bring!