

# **“Why Shouldn’t I Be Baptized?”**

**Acts 8:26-39**

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1. The Bible tells us that “The Lord ... is not willing that any should perish...” 2 Peter 3:9 And Jesus told us, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:15-16
  2. The subject of baptism is a very controversial subject in the religious world.
  3. Perhaps the greatest area of controversy is over why people are baptized.
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- I. Let’s Look at The History Behind Baptism. Mark 1:4, “And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”
    - A. This is the first passage in the N.T. to mention baptism.
      1. John 3:23
      2. Matthew 3:13-15; “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20
  - II. Does Baptism Have Anything To Do With Our Salvation? Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
    - A. This question is answered in the Book of Acts.
      1. Acts 2:36, “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:37-38.
    - B. Acts 8 is the story of Philip, a deacon who begins preaching.
      1. “As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The eunuch answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:34-38
    - C. Then in Acts 22 Paul tells about his own conversion.
      1. Acts 22:8-10
  - III. Questions To Consider.
    - A. “Do you have to be baptized by immersion in order to be saved?”
    - B. “Do I have to be baptized by immersion to be a member Jesus’ church?”
      1. Acts 2:41; Acts 2:47, “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”
    - C. “Do I have to be baptized during a church service?”
    - D. “When should my children be baptized?”
      1. Matthew 18:3