

Series: Back to Basics

**Baptism: Is it Essential?
Acts 2:36-39**

**Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN**

- I. Understanding the Word 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. Mark’s passage is the first in the New Testament to mention baptism.
1. “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. Is Baptism Essential to 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. The answer to that question is in the book of Acts.
1. “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36
 2. “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
 3. Verse 41 adds, “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day.”
- B. Acts 8 records the story of Philip and the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch.
- C. In Acts 22, Paul tells about his own conversion.
1. “As he was on his way to Damascus suddenly a bright light from heaven blinded him and he heard a voice saying, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied... ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked. ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’” Acts 22:6-10
 2. “Now what are you waiting for? Get up, and be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.” Acts 22:16
- III. What is the Method of Baptism? “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 8:36-38
- A. Throughout Christian history three primary modes of baptism have been followed: sprinkling, pouring and immersion.
- B. A brief survey of how baptism was administered in the New Testament reveals the following interesting facts.
- C. Of all the questions related to baptism, there’s one that raises a lot of confusion.