



## 2) Does The Bible Teach "Baptismal Salvation?"

- A) In modern 21<sup>st</sup>-century terms, when we want to know if someone is a follower of Jesus Christ, we ask them (something like), "when did you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?"
  
- B) But is "praying THE prayer" how a person is saved? Absolutely not! The Bible teaches that salvation is a gift from God which is given to a person. There is nothing any person can "do" to earn/merit/accomplish their own salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).
  
- C) In clearer terms, when we ask a person when they "received" Jesus, we are asking them "when did you receive the gift?" The prayer follows the gift, it is a response to the gift, it is the thing we do to confirm a moment in time when we "accepted" the gift of Jesus from God.
  
- D) Salvation was often associated with immediate baptism in the Newer Testament (Acts 2:38, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21). For the early church community, baptism was "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace" (Augustine).
  
- E) In other words, baptism was (and is) the outward and public sign of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism itself does not save, however, only the saved should be baptized to publicly proclaim faith in Christ.

## 3) Can A Person Be Saved And Not Be Baptized?

- A) Yes! The man who was crucified on the cross was never baptized, but was clearly saved (Luke 23:39-43)! Baptism is not necessary for salvation.

- B) However, Jesus Christ was baptized to identify with mankind (despite His sinlessness), and provide an example for all followers of Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:13-17).
  
- C) To sum up, you do not have to be baptized to be saved. However, unless you are hanging on a cross (death bed conversion experience), you should be baptized!

## 4) What If I Was Baptized As An Infant?

- A) There are several traditions where baptizing infants (paedobaptism) is a normal practice (e.g. Catholicism, Presbyterian/Reformed churches, etc.). While there is no direct command in Scripture to baptize infants, there is also nothing which prohibits baptizing infants.
  
- B) There is indication in Scripture that infants were baptized (Acts 16:15, 33) when their parent(s) responded to salvation. This shouldn't be understood as non-believers being baptized, but as the whole family coming to faith.
  
- C) When an infant is baptized, the tradition which does the baptizing is usually emphasizing God's choosing accomplished "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). Thus, infants are baptized as a commitment of the church to nurture the faith of the child and to include the child in the covenant community.
  
- D) Since the clear teaching of Scripture is directed at "believer's baptism," we will only baptize those who can articulate their response to God's gift of Jesus Christ in their life. We choose to observe "infant dedication" rather than paedobaptism.