

Section 2: What about Baptism?

What is baptism?

Baptism is the outward declaration that a person has decided to follow Jesus. It is an outward symbol that declares that this new believer has been cleansed from his/her sins and is forgiven. Baptism is the very first command to be obeyed after a person believes in Jesus.

Read the verses below about baptism and answer the questions under the verses.

- ✚ Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- ✚ Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- ✚ Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 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?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.
- ✚ Acts 16:30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then *immediately* he and all his family were baptized.

1) According to the passages above, is baptism:

- a. Very Important
- b. Somewhat Important
- c. Not Very Important

2) According to the passages above, when was a person baptized?

- a. After they proved they were a faithful Christian
- b. Whenever they felt they were ready
- c. After they learned and understood Christianity better
- d. Immediately after professing belief in Jesus

- ✚ Matthew 28: 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

3) In this passage, who is speaking?

4) In this passage, what comes first, *baptizing* the new believer or *teaching* the new believer?

5) In this passage, who is commanded to "make disciples" and "baptize"?

6) According to the Bible should baptism only be performed by special people?

7) According to this verse below, what picture does baptism represent?

- ✚ Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.