

# BAPTISM

## Handout for Lesson 3 of *Thought Provoking Questions*

### FACTS ABOUT BAPTISM\*

- #1: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.
- #2: Baptism is part of every conversion in the book of Acts.
- #3: The Greek word “baptizo” means immersion.
- #4: There is one baptism.
- #5: Baptism is central to our fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- #6: The baptism of the Great Commission is water baptism.
- #7: Baptism involves purification.
- #8: Baptism involves a change of relationship.
- #9: Preaching Christ involves preaching baptism.
- #10: Man plays some role in his salvation. His participation is not purely passive.
- #11: Preaching in the New Testament prompted immediate baptisms.
- #12: Infants have no need of baptism.
- #13: The baptism of John was water baptism for the remission of sins.
- #14: The baptism of John was not the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and neither is the baptism of the Great Commission.
- #15: Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.

### COMMON ARGUMENTS AGAINST BAPTISM\*

- #1: Baptism is a work, and we are not saved by works.  
Wrong! Titus 3:4-7 tells us that baptism is not a work of our own merit. Also, the issue is not what saves us but rather when we are saved, and it is at our baptism that our sins are washed away. (Acts 22:16)
- #2: Baptism today is like circumcision in the Old Testament, and Abraham was justified by faith prior to his circumcision.  
Wrong! Circumcision and baptism are similar in that both put off the flesh. (Colossians 2:11-13) But they differ in that baptism brings us into a covenant relation with God whereas Jews were physically born into that relation under the Old Covenant.
- #3: Acts 2:38 really means we are baptized “because of” the remission of sins.  
Wrong! The Greek word “eis” always means with a view toward and never means because of. See, for example, Matthew 26:28 and Romans 10:10.
- #4: John 3:16 is the gospel in miniature, and it says nothing about being baptized.  
That the belief in John 3:16 is an active, obedient belief is clear from the context. See John 3:14-15 and Numbers 21:9.
- #5: The thief on the cross was saved without being baptized.  
Wrong! First, there is more evidence that the thief was baptized than that he was not. But in any event, the thief was forgiven prior to the death of Christ, which is when the New Covenant came into effect.
- #6: Cornelius was saved prior to being baptized.  
Wrong! Cornelius was told to send for Peter, who would tell him what he needed to do. (Acts 10:6; 11:14) The Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius as Peter began to speak and as a sign to Peter. (11:15) When Peter finally had the opportunity to tell Cornelius what he needed to do, he told him to be baptized in water. (10:47-48)
- #7: Mark 16:16 does not say that those who are not baptized are lost.  
There was no need to say those who are not baptized are lost because clearly if you do not believe then you will not be baptized. What Jesus did say is that if you believe and are baptized, then you will be saved.
- #8: Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:17 that Christ did not send him to baptize, but to preach the gospel.  
Paul was not belittling baptism, but rather was saying that it is not important who baptizes you. Also, it is clear that Paul is assuming that they had all been baptized. Paul’s own sins were forgiven at his baptism. (Acts 22:16)
- #9: How can getting wet make any difference to our eternal destiny? It just doesn’t make any sense to me.  
Naaman nearly made this same mistake. Read 2 Kings 5:1-18.
- #10: All you need to do to be saved is just accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior, make him Lord of your life, and pray the sinner’s prayer.  
Wrong! Saul prayed for 3 days and yet was not saved until he was baptized. (Acts 9:11, 22:16) Cornelius prayed always, yet he needed to do more. (Acts 10) We do not obey Jesus to make him Lord; we obey Jesus because he is Lord. (Acts 2:36-38)

\* For much more information about each of these topics, please see the class notes for Lesson 3 available at [www.ThyWordIsTruth.com](http://www.ThyWordIsTruth.com).