

Understanding Water Baptism

A crucial subject that many people do not understand is the importance of water baptism and what takes place as a result of it. Many people view water baptism as an option that you can do if you want to, but it's alright if you don't. There are also questions about how to baptize people and at what age you can baptize them.

However, due to the fact that so many people cling only to a certain set of scriptures and then ignore what other scriptures tell them, it is essential for this teaching to be in depth and to show you through the scriptures, the errors of these teachings.

Though the primary teaching is going to be on understanding water baptism, in order for this to be accomplished, you must first understand how one learns knowledge and gains doctrinal understanding. And secondly, in order to eliminate the other teachings that abound, I must answer the questions that likely will arise by showing you scriptures that are often ignored in the many views of Christianity today.

Let's start with understanding how one learns knowledge and gains doctrinal understanding.

Isaiah 28:9-10

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For **precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:**

Precept: a general rule regulating behavior or thought.

In a nut shell, this is saying in order for you to understand doctrine and learn knowledge, it will be accomplished through studying. Also it will come to those that hunger and thirst after righteousness. And to those who walk uprightly.

Matthew 5:6

6 **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**

Psalms 84:11

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: **no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

2 Timothy 2:15

15 **Study to show thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

So for you to understand doctrine and gain knowledge you have to desire it, you have to pursue after it, and you must subject yourself under those that have the rule over you. For it was ordained by God to be as such.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, **apostles;** and some, **prophets;** and some, **evangelists;** and some, **pastors** and **teachers;**

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God,** unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Hebrew 13:17

17 **Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:** for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

With this understanding of how to gain knowledge and receive doctrinal understanding, it is of the utmost importance to realize that all scriptures will work together.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God,** and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

This verse is crucial!!! It lets us know without any doubt that all scripture was given by inspiration of God. And not only was it given by inspiration of God, it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

This means that all scripture will work together. So to fully gain doctrinal understanding, it will come precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little, **just as the prophet Isaiah told us.**

Though I could have made this a separate lesson, it is vital for it to be in this lesson. So that it will be fresh in your mind as you begin to **gain understanding of water baptism.**

I would like to start off with what **Jesus says** about being baptized.

Mark 16:15-18

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

18 **They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

Jesus answers the question for us concerning whether or not we need to be baptized. He said, He that believeth **and is baptized shall be saved.** So without any doubt, Jesus said you must be baptized. It was not optional!!

I would like to **briefly pause** here and speak about **verse 18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

This verse **was not speaking of handling snakes and drinking poisons in a natural sense,** but spiritually speaking.

Look at:

Luke 10:17-20

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

19 **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over**

all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Notwithstanding in this **rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

The Lord has given His people **power over the devils and over all the power of the enemy.** The Lord then tells us, rejoice not, **that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

The same lack of understanding can be found in this illustration given to us from:

Matthew 16:6-12

6 Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

8 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, **O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?**

9 **Do ye not yet understand,** neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

11 **How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?**

12 **Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

As the Lord made known, He was not speaking of literal bread, but of the doctrinal teachings of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Just as He was not literally speaking about handling snakes and drinking deadly poison, but rather that His people have been given power through Him over the devils and over all the power of the enemy.

Ok **back to the topic of baptism.** Jesus made it clear that He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. So is baptism essential to salvation? According to Jesus it is. Further more, since all scriptures work together, we know that you also must repent of your sins. Just because it wasn't mentioned here, **does not mean** we can ignore repenting.

Luke 13:3,5

3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

5 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

Just because every passage of scripture **does not redundantly state** every single instruction **over and over and over**, does not make it void. **This is why we must** study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

And also again **reminds us** that **doctrinal understanding** will come precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

Again, this lesson is about the understanding of water baptism. But in order for you to fully understand this teaching **it is essential** for you to understand some **common errors**. This way, you will not dismiss what you are being taught as not true because of unanswered questions that you may have because of being previously taught something else. I am going to do my best to continue to answer all the questions that generally cause confusion.

Many people claim that what you are **about to read** is how you obtain salvation.

Romans 10:7-8

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and **shalt believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved**.

Romans 10:13

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved**.

John 3:14-16

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That **whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have everlasting life.

What happened to the rest of what was taught????? **Where is** the repentance and

baptism that **Jesus told us** that we must do?????

Remember: All scripture is given **by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**. And that doctrinal understanding will come precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; **here a little, and there a little**.

Again, Jesus also said:

Luke 13:3,5

3 I tell you, **Nay:** but, except ye repent, **ye shall all likewise perish.**

5 I tell you, **Nay:** but, except ye repent, **ye shall all likewise perish.**

And

Mark 16:16

16 He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

So just because you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, does not mean you are saved. **Nor** are you saved because you repented of your sins. **You must fulfill all of what the Lord tells us to do** in order to obtain the born again experience.

The lack of understanding is this:

The Gospels told us of the life of Jesus Christ, His teachings, the miracles He performed, His death and His resurrection. And before His ascension into Heaven, He told His followers that they needed to go to Jerusalem and wait upon the promise of the Holy Ghost.

The book of Acts was the establishment of the Church. It contains the fulfillment of the receiving of the Holy Ghost, the message of salvation, the persecution of the Church, the miracles that took place after the death of Jesus, and the fulfilling of what the Lord commanded them to do, which was, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

The Epistles were letters written to the **already established Churches** and in some cases individuals. The instructions contained in them, were given to instruct

the followers of Christ on how they should now live. They already partook and understood that they needed to be born again, by repenting, and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins, and they already understood the promise of the receiving of the gift of the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking in another tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance.

So the mistakes being made are these: looking into the epistles for the plan of salvation instead of in the book of Acts where the completion of the New Testament Church began. As well as ignoring any scripture that appears to go against the teaching of what they hold to be true.

This ultimately leads to ignoring that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. **It also ignores** that doctrinal understanding will come precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

With this understanding, let's look again at the subject of water baptism.

Jesus told us, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and Jesus also told us except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

So now that we understand that **we must be baptized**, what method do we then use when we get baptized? What happens when we get baptized? And, is there any age restriction on when you can get baptized?

John 3:1-7

- 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
- 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
- 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**
- 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- 5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**
- 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

Several things to discuss here. First off this born again process is not a fleshly birth but a spiritual birth as stated in verse 6. Also it is **very important to remember** that these instructions that were given here are instructions **that were given just 7 verses prior to this scripture.** **16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Yet people will cling to verse 16 and claim to be born again **while ignoring everything else Jesus spoke on.** For instance: Did Jesus not just tell Nicodemus, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, **he cannot enter** into the kingdom of God? Did Jesus not also tell us except ye repent, **ye shall all likewise perish.** Did Jesus not also tell us He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved.

God did so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. That is why we need to follow after the instructions that Jesus gave to us. **Not just some of it.** All scripture is given by inspiration of God.

So we must be born again of water and of the Spirit. This lesson is geared to the understanding of water baptism. I will have a lesson on being born of the Spirit in the future.

To fulfill being born of water **you must be baptized** as Jesus said, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, **even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Notice Jesus said, teach all nations, **baptizing them,** and teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have **commanded** you. Not just some things. **But all things.** For all scripture is given by inspiration of God.

So here Jesus tells us to **baptize them in the name of** the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. So what is the name?

Jesus tells us the name.

John 5:43a

43 **I am come in my Father's name,** and ye receive me not:

John 17:6, 26

6 **I have manifested thy name** unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

26 **And I have declared unto them thy name,** and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 14:16-18, 26

16 **And I will pray the Father,** and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 **Even the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

18 **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

26 **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost,** whom the Father will send **in my name,** he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Luke 24:45-49

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued** with power from on high.

Jesus opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **and told them what to speak.** He told them to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name. **And they did!!!** He also told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for

the promise of the Holy Ghost. **They did!!!!**

So when the Holy Ghost was poured out as the Lord had promised, the Apostles told everyone, **including you and me**, what they **needed to do in order to obtain salvation**.

Acts 2:36-39

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, **what shall we do?**

Notice that the Apostle Peter, preached to them exactly what the Lord told them.

38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(Lk 24:47 **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**)

(Jn 14:26 **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**)

The Apostle Peter continues.....

39 **For the promise** is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The Plan of Salvation **for every** generation! **Remember:** The Holy Ghost will come into you with the evidence of speaking in another tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance. (Acts 2:4)

That is enough to tell you that the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost was **Jesus**. The **Apostles did exactly what the Lord told them** to do. They preached repentance and remission of sins in His name, with the understanding that the Lord had just given to them, **thus fulfilling baptizing**

everyone in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

There is **not one occurrence** given in the Bible of anyone being baptized in the titles of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **History also tells us** that the early Church **always baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, or in the name of the Lord Jesus, or in the name of the Lord. It also **was always a full submersion into water.**

Recall: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Notice that the Apostle Peter told us to repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Repentance is a must in our lives. But just repenting of your sins, and not being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ , **will not remove your Adamic sin.** Which is referring to the fact that we were all born in sin. Yes when you repent, you will feel a great weight lifted off of you. However, **this does not negate the fact** that the Lord told us that we must be born of water and of the Spirit. You must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **for your sins to be remitted.** It is not the water that is magically removing your sins. But **it is where the cutting away of your sins takes place.**

Colossians 2:11-15

11 In whom also **ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands,** in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ:**

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him **through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

14 **Blotting out** the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nauling it to his cross;**

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, **he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

This is crucial to understand. Once you have repented and then you are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, you must have faith in the operation of God. **The**

operation of the circumcision of Christ, or the cutting away of your sins!!!!

This takes place in the baptism as you are buried with Him and then believing that just as God raised Jesus from the dead **in like manner you now are a new creature in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 6:1-7

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 **God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For **if** we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 **Knowing this,** that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin.**

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Galatians 3:24-27

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ,** that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God **by faith** in Christ Jesus.

27 **For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

Not only is it in the water that we are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, or the cutting away of our sins that takes place, **it is also when we put on the name of Christ.** That is why it is **so important** that when you are baptized, that you are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **For that is when you take on His name.**

Notice when the Holy Ghost was first poured out upon the gentiles what takes place:

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.** Then answered Peter,

47 **Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?**

48 And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

The first thing the Apostle Peter **commands** them to do is to be **baptized in the name of the Lord.** It was not an option! He commanded it!! For he knew that in order for you to receive remission of sins that was inherited from your birth, you had to not only repent of your sins, but also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. For he knew that this was the fulfilling of being born of water as Jesus instructed Nicodemus. Whereas the receiving of the Holy Ghost was the fulfilling of being born of the Spirit as Jesus told Nicodemus. I will have a Bible study on the Holy Ghost in a future study.

Water baptism by submersion is absolutely essential to the new birth experience, or the process of being born again!!!!

Listen to this account of what took place when Apostle Paul (Saul of Tarsus) received the Holy Ghost:

Acts 9:17-18

17 And **Ananias** went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, **and be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, **and arose, and was baptized.**

Now Listen to Apostle Paul retelling this account:

Acts 22:12-16

12 And one **Ananias**, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,

13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight.

And the same hour I looked up upon him.

14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

16 **And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

Here again, we see that it is in the water baptism, that your sins are cut away with the circumcision made without hands, and thus why we invoke the name of the Lord, for our sins are being washed away. Not by magic of the water. **But because of the faith of the operation of God.**

It is also important for you to realize that infant baptism or the sprinkling of water being used in baptism **is not scriptural.** In a nutshell this was instituted by the Catholic Church. A baby can not understand the Gospel and can not confess Jesus.

A child should not be baptized **until** the child has been taught about Jesus and desires then to go to Heaven. **At that time** you can tell your child that all of mankind was born in sin, and we must repent for those sins. And that means that we are sorry for them and don't want to do them anymore. **If the child confesses** that they love Jesus and want to go to Heaven and they tell Jesus they are sorry for all of their sins, **it is time** to let them know that **we also need** to be baptized into His name so our sins can be washed away. (**Note:** of course I am not meaning the water magically makes sin disappear)

If the child then says I want to be baptized. Then they have confessed Jesus, **understood** that they needed to repent for their inherited sin from Adam, and **they have faith** that when they are baptized that their sins will be washed away or remitted.

Unfortunately, many people try to refute that being baptized is essential to salvation. In order for them to say this, **they directly go against what Jesus spoke** when he said, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. **They also go against the commandment** given by Jesus saying, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

They also ignore the first message taught by the Apostle Peter when the Holy

Ghost was poured out, when he told everyone that they must repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and that ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

They ignore that it is in the baptism that the Lord performs the circumcision made without hands. **They ignore** the words of the Apostle Paul when he tells us what Ananias said concerning the water baptism, which was, why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. They also miss the types and shadows given to us from the Old Testament.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were **under the cloud**, and **all passed through the sea**;

2 And **were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea**;

Here we have a type of baptism of water and of the Spirit. The water being the Red sea, while the Spirit being represented by the pillar of the cloud by day.

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls **were saved by water**.

21 **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

This particular passage many times is used to try to justify that baptism is nothing more than the answer of a good conscience toward God. **Again, ignoring** all the other scriptures and **missing the point of what was spoken**.

The Apostle Peter is the very one that told us, Repent, and be baptized **every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, **even as many as the Lord our God shall call**.

Here, the Apostle Peter has again stressed, that just as Noah was saved by water, we also **by like figure** are saved by water **through baptism**. Then stating, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh. Meaning, we aren't getting into the water to be baptized for the flesh but for our souls. It is the answer of a good conscience

toward God, because of our faith of the operation of God, which was the **circumcision of Christ**, the circumcision made without hands. **The cutting away or washing away of our sins!!!!**

Titus 3:5-6

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Again you see water and the Spirit.

The Greek word in use for washing:

3067. loutron, loo-tron'; from G3068; a bath, i.e. (fig.) baptism:--washing.

The Greek word in use for regeneration:

3824. paliggenesia, pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah; from G3825 and G1078; (spiritual) rebirth (the state or the act), i.e. (fig.) spiritual renovation; spec. Messianic restoration:--regeneration.

Ephesians 5:24-27

24 Therefore as the **church is subject unto Christ**, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 **That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Again, by the washing of water by the word. **Spiritual cleansing.**

We also see the **washing away of blood** in the Old Testament when the Levitical priesthood performed sacrifices on the Brazen Altar and **then washed in the Brazen Laver.**

The Brazen Altar, where the sacrifices were done, was a shadow of Jesus Christ, the sacrificial lamb of God, which was sacrificed as our atonement, to reconcile,

which is to restore friendly relations, between us and God.

The Brazen Laver, was a shadow of the water baptism in Jesus name, where our old man is buried with Christ, and **His blood remits or washes away our sins**.

In closing, it is essential for us to partake of the born again experience by fulfilling what the Lord has commanded for us to do. That fulfillment was given to us by the Apostle Peter after the Lord opened their understanding to the scriptures, after the Lord told them that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, and after receiving the Holy Ghost as was promised.

So what are you waiting for? Today is the day of salvation.

Acts 2:38-42

38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Remember:

Colossians 3:17

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

This would include the baptism!!!!