

Baptism

I. What is Baptism?

- A. Baptism is a burial.
 - 1. Romans 6:3, 4
 - 2. Colossians 2:12
- B. Baptism is not sprinkling or pouring.
 - 1. Both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water (Acts 8:36, 37).
 - 2. John baptized where there was **much** water (John 3:23).
- C. Baptism is the process by which one is made new (Romans 6:3, 4).
- D. Baptism is a command.
 - 1. Matthew 28:18-20
 - 2. Acts 10:48
- E. Baptism is the way in which we contact the blood of Jesus.
 - 1. The blood of Jesus saves us.
 - a. Revelation 1:5
 - b. 1 Peter 1:18, 19
 - c. 1 John 1:7
 - 2. Jesus shed His blood at His death (John 19:34).
 - 3. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Jesus' death where we contact His blood (Romans 6:4).
- F. Water baptism is the baptism of the Scriptures.
 - 1. Paul wrote (AD 62 or 63) there is only one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
 - 2. Peter wrote (AD 63-67) that this one baptism is water baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

II. Why should one be baptized?

- A. To receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- B. To have sins washed away (Acts 22:16).
- C. To get into Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- D. To be like the Ephesians.
 - 1. The Ephesians were once far from God (Ephesians 2:12).
 - 2. The Ephesians were brought nigh to God by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).
 - 3. The Ephesians were baptized (Acts 19:5).
- E. To be saved (Mark 16:16).

IS MARK 16:16 REALLY THAT HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

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Which of the following statements do you think you might have difficulty understanding?

1. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a promotion to a better job.

2. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a new automobile.

3. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a month's vacation.

4. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a free trip abroad.

5. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a thousand dollars.

6. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

The first five we can all understand. We know they promise a certain reward to the persons who believe and are baptized. We know that the reward cannot be claimed until both conditions, faith and baptism, have been met. The last statement is a promise made by the Lord. It is a promise of salvation to those who believe and are baptized. Does the Lord mean He will save those who believe and are NOT baptized? Honestly now—are the Lord's commands and promises that hard to understand?

Obedience To The Gospel

After Jesus had died for our sins, was resurrected and just before he ascended into heaven, he commanded his apostles in Mark 16:15-16, "And he said to them, Go into all the world and preach the **gospel** to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Our Lord wanted the **gospel** preached to everyone. The word "**gospel**" literally means good news or good tidings.

What does the Bible say that the gospel is that saves us? In I Corinthians 15:1-4, Paul is reminding the church at Corinth about the gospel when he says, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, and in which you stand; by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; **that Christ died** for our sins according to the scriptures, and **that He was buried**, and **that He rose again** the third day according to the scriptures." Here we see that Paul was reminding them of the gospel in which Christ **died**, and was **buried**, and was **raised** again on the third day. Also notice, they were saved by the gospel. So the good news of the gospel is the **death**, **burial**, and **resurrection** of our Lord, as the following chart illustrates.

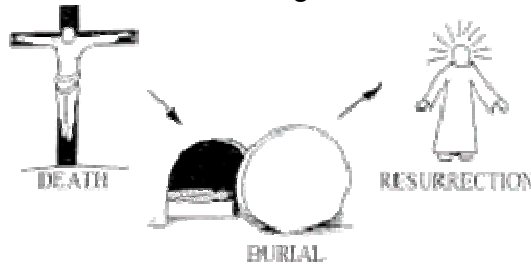


Illustration by Robert Swain

Christ had to be **buried** since he died. Then after three days, Christ was **raised up** from the dead. We read in I Corinthians 6:14, "And God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power." So why is the resurrection of Christ, the gospel or good news? The good news of the resurrection of Christ is that since God was able to raise up Christ, He will also raise us up from the dead. Jesus says in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection, and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." So the gospel is the **death**, **burial**, and **resurrection** of Jesus Christ. This is certainly good news.

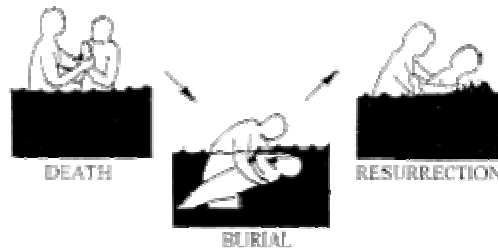


Illustration by Robert Swain

The chart above illustrates how that in baptism we obey the gospel. That is we obey a form of His **death**, **burial**, and **resurrection** when we are baptized, so that vengeance will not be taken on us. Continuing in this sixth chapter of Romans we read in verses 17-18 (KJV), "But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have **obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness.**" So, we see that when people **obey that form of doctrine** that is a form of the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection when they are baptized, they are at that point then made free from the sin and become the servants of righteousness.

adapted from

<http://www.bible.ca/interactive/salvation-18-obeying-the-gospel.htm>