



What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together (4)

Baptism and Salvation

1 Peter 3:21

Our 2026
Theme

Introduction

- We have introduced our theme for 2026, “What God has (and has not) joined together”. This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**.
- We will be examining some doctrines, specifically things that God has joined together (they complement each other) while many in the world reject or redefine their union.
- In our last lesson we noted how God has joined together faith and works.

Introduction

- Today we want to begin a discussion of how God has joined together baptism and our salvation.
- This is a complex subject with serious implications. We must address the question, “Must one be baptized to be saved?”
- Today I want to make the case for why baptism is necessary.
- Next week, I want to answer some questions related to this and baptism.

The Bible and Baptism

- NOTE: Most of the denominational world believes that obedience is important, AND that one ought to be baptized. The question is whether or not baptism should occur before (in order to) salvation or after (as a testimony of one's faith).
- Consider the “great commission” –
Matthew 28:19-20 – make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Mark 16:15-16 - go/preach.
Believe + Baptized = Saved

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- Consider the “great commission” – **Luke 24:46-47** – repentance and remission of sins preached to all nations.
- While baptism is not mentioned in this account consider:
 - 1) The other parallel accounts DO mention baptism.
 - 2) **Acts 2:38** – uses the same phrase, “remission of sins” and ties it to baptism.
 - 3) Both Luke & Acts were written by Luke.

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- **Romans 6:3-6** – Paul relates baptism to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- The word baptize (βαπτίζω, baptizō) means to submerge, dip. Always immersion.
- What it symbolizes implies immersion.
- This ties the act of baptism to the blood of Jesus –
Matthew 26:26-28, Revelation 1:5.
- We put to death the old man and bury him –
cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** – we are baptized into one body
- **Ephesians 1:22-23** – that body is His church.
- **Acts 2:47**, the Lord added to the church (their number) daily those who were being saved.

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- **Galatians 3:26-28** – we are baptized “into Christ” and “put on Christ”
- What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** – a new creation
 - **Ephesians 1:3** – all spiritual blessing in Him
 - **Ephesians 1:7** – redemption through His blood
 - **2 Timothy 2:10** – salvation is in Christ
 - **1 John 5:11-12** – eternal life is in the Son

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- **Colossians 2:11-12** – in Him we are circumcised – buried with Him in baptism and raised through faith.
- We put off the body of trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of our flesh, and made alive together with Him.

The Bible and Baptism

Baptism and salvation

- **1 Peter 3:20-21** – baptism now saves us
- Related to the salvation of Noah “through water” implying the type of baptism we need.
- “Antitype” (NKJV), meaning, “not a model”. “Corresponding to” (LSB, NASB, ESV).
- Peter indisputably ties baptism to our salvation, “now”.
- He DOES clarify that it is an act of faith (more than getting wet).

You obey God because believe Him (His promises)

Examples in the book of Acts

3000 on Pentecost

- **Acts 2:37-41** – repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins.
- Remission means forgiveness (**Ephesians 1:7**) and was the result (after) baptism
- First, they needed to repent.

Examples in the book of Acts

3000 on Pentecost

- **Acts 2:37-41** – repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins.
- “The word *for* can mean “*because of*.” In English this is true (**Romans 3:23, 1:16, Matthew 3:2, etc.**) BUT, in Greek, the word “*for*” in **Acts 2:38** is εἰς (eis), a preposition that always points toward something. The word “*for*” in the above texts is γάρ (gar) which is a marker of cause.
- Consider also **Matthew 26:28** – the exact grammatical expression as **Acts 2:38**. What the blood of Jesus shed because our sins had already been forgiven?

Examples in the book of Acts

Samaritans and Simon the Sorcerer

- **Acts 8:12-13** – after persecutions Philip went to Samaria.
- He performed miracles and the people listened to his message about Jesus.
- They believed and were baptized. So was Simon who then continued with Philip.

Examples in the book of Acts

The Ethiopian Eunuch

- **Acts 8:35-39** – Philip sent by an angel to teach the eunuch returning to Ethiopia.
- Philip preaches Jesus from the Isaiah scroll (**Isa. 53:7-8**). In that message the eunuch saw a need to be baptized. It happened immediately.
- The eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

Examples in the book of Acts

Saul (Paul) in Damascus

- **Acts 9:17-18** – Saul on the road to persecute Christians and is struck blind by Jesus.
- He is told to go to the city where he would be told what he needed to do (**9:6**)
- Ananias, a prophet, is sent to baptize him.
- **Acts 22:16** finds Paul retelling his conversion before a crowd in Jerusalem.
“Wash away your sins”, “calling on the name of the Lord.”

Examples in the book of Acts

Cornelius and his household

- **Acts 10:47-48** – baptized after Peter preaches and the Holy Spirit falls on them.
- A Gentile, Cornelius is told by an angel to send for Peter. He comes and preaches about Jesus.
- Peter commands they be baptized in the name of the Lord (after the Holy Spirit falls on them).
- Note also **11:14** where Peter is explaining why he went to a Gentile. Cornelius would be told "*words by which you and your household will be saved*"

Examples in the book of Acts

Lidia and her household

- **Acts 16:14-15** – she was in Philippi and praying with women on the Sabbath.
- Paul preaches to her and the Lord opens her heart (a miracle is NOT necessary here).
- She and her household were baptized.

Examples in the book of Acts

The Philippian jailer and his house

- **Acts 16:31-34** – in Philippi, Paul & Silas are in prison for the cause of Christ. The prison is shaken and the jailer asks, “What must I do to be saved?”
- Paul said, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...*”
- **Vs. 32**, THEN they spoke the word of the Lord to him.
- That night he and his family were immediately baptized.

Examples in the book of Acts

The Corinthians

- **Acts 18:8** – Paul is in Corinth (and will spend some time there). He preaches and Jews and Gentiles listen.
- Many Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized. Crispus, ruler of the synagogue was among them (more next week) and believed.

Examples in the book of Acts

In Ephesus

- **Acts 19:1-5** – Paul meets some improperly taught believers.
- They had been baptized in the name of John. Paul taught the truth and they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- This is a case of someone baptized a second time because their first was improper.

Examples in the book of Acts

Account	Hear	Believe	Repent	Confess	Baptized	Result
Pentecost, Acts 2:37-41	2:37		2:38		2:38	Remission of sins
Samaritans, Simon Acts 8:15-13	8:6	8:12-13			8:12	
Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:36-41	8:35	8:37		8:37*	8:38-39	Rejoiced
Saul (Paul) Acts 9:1-19, 22:16	22:16				9:18, 22:16	Sins washed away
Cornelius Acts 10:25-48	10:2, 33	10:43			10:48	Remission of sins
Lydia Acts 16:13-15	16:14	16:14			16:15	
Philippian Jailer Acts 16:16-34	16:30-32	16:31	16:33*		16:33	Rejoicing
Corinthians, Crispus - Acts 18:8	18:8	18:8			18:8	
Ephesus – 12 men Acts 19:1-5	19:4-5	19:5			19:5	“In the name of the Lord



Baptism is part of God's pattern leading to salvation

Have you been baptized for the
remission of your sins?



Let us pray!