

# What Baptism Will and Will Not Do

Lesson Text: **Acts 2:38**

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. When the subject of baptism arises a number of reactions can be anticipated.
1. Some will ask, "Why bring that up?"
  2. Some will wonder why it is taught about so often.
  3. Some will wonder why it is really every taught about at all.
  4. Some will immediately classify it as a work . . . a human attempt to earn salvation.
  5. Some will see it as an avenue for obtaining membership in a local congregation of the church they attend.
  6. Some will want others to know that it is a divisive subject.
  7. Some will not want to study the subject at all.
  8. Some will recognize it as a Bible subject and desire to know God's will about its application to their lives.
- B. The religious world is divided over the subject of baptism.
1. The majority do not regard it as a definite part of salvation.
  2. Many see it as having no relevance to man's salvation.
  3. What the religious world needs to realize is that God has given enough information on this important subject that no doubt should be left in human minds as to its importance in God's will for us.

## AS IN ANY AND ALL BIBLE SUBJECTS, THE BIBLE MUST DECIDE IT FOR US

- A. The Bible does not teach that baptism will do everything.
- B. On the other hand, the Bible does not teach that baptism will do nothing.
1. Why would mention be made of it if it did nothing?
  2. Why would mention be made of anything else, if baptism did everything?
- C. It is not a matter of everything or nothing; rather, it is a matter of the "something" that baptism will do.
1. There some things it WILL NOT do; there are other things it definitely WILL DO.
  2. Only the Bible can decide this for us.
  3. Open your heart to whatever the Bible might say on this, or any other, subject.
  4. Rid your mind of any prejudice.
  5. Learn to examine the scriptures with the sole desire of coming to a fuller understanding and appreciation, and a readiness of mind to follow sacred truth.

**WHAT WILL BAPTISM NOT DO?** might be well first to consider what baptism will not do. One should never ascribe to baptism what the Lord has not ascribed to it.

**A. BAPTISM WILL NOT GIVE ONE A LICENSE TO SIN.**

1. **Romans 6:6** – “Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.”
2. **Romans 6:12** – “do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts.”
3. God endeavors to keep man from sin . . . not give him a license to sin!

**B. BAPTISM WILL NOT KEEP ONE FROM BEING TEMPTED AGAIN BY SIN.**

1. Temptations will come. They did for Christ after His baptism, and they will for us after ours.
2. Satan will ever be at work to turn the baptized believer back into the world. Unfortunately, he has succeeded on many occasions.
3. While baptism does remove the guilt of sin, it does not provide us an immunity against ever returning to the world and being lost again. The Bible teaches:
  - a. A Christian can fall. 1 Corinthians 11;12
  - b. A Christian can fall from grace. Galatians 5:6
  - c. A Christian can fall away. Hebrews 6:4-6
  - d. A Christian can become a castaway. 1 Corinthians 9:27
  - e. A Christian can fail to inherit. Galatians 5:19-21
  - f. A Christian can perish. 1 Corinthians 8:12
4. We are told in the Bible that we can fall . . . and we are told how to keep from falling. 2 Peter 1:5-10
5. The Bible even goes far enough to show the way of return for the one who has fallen. Acts 8:18-23.

**C. BAPTISM WILL NOT NECESSARILY REMOVE THE BITTER FRUIT OF SIN . . . THAT IS, ITS CONSEQUENCES.**

1. Sin often leaves its scar even though its guilt has been forgiven.
2. For example, if a man, through sin, dissipates his body and destroys his health, he must bear the brunt of his sin even though he has been forgiven.
3. The Bible promises “remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) through baptism, but does not promise “removal of every evil effect.”

**D. BAPTISM WILL NOT REMOVE ALL PROBLEMS FROM ONE’S LIFE.**

1. **2 Timothy 3:12** – “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
2. Such persecutions can create real problems. Christ will help us bear any burden and carry any load.

**E. BAPTISM WILL NOT RELIEVE A MAN OF FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY.**

1. In fact, Christian responsibility really begins when one is obedient to the gospel.
2. He arises from the grave of baptism that he might walk in the newness of life. Rom. 6:4
3. **Colossians 3:1-3**- “then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.  
Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.  
For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
4. **Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

## F. BAPTISM WILL NOT CHANGE MAN PHYSICALLY.

1. It was not intended to . . . for baptism deals with the soul.
2. It is not a bath to cleanse the outward man . . . but it is a gesture of the heart.
3. One's stature, physical appearance, etc., will not be affected through baptism.
4. Baptism is not merely a physical thing—"not the putting away of the filth of the flesh"—  
But the answer of a good conscience toward God."

## G. Baptism will not cover up for one's lack of faith.

1. **John 8:24** – "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
2. **Hebrews 11:6** – " But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
3. Baptism could not be expected to save the man who does not believe. **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.
4. In like manner, baptism could not be expected to save the man who will not repent.
  - a. **Luke 13:3, 5** – "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."
  - b. **Acts 2:38** – ". . .Repent and be baptized everyone of you . . ."

## H. Baptism will not save a man against his own will.

1. Any act of obedience must be "from the heart." **Romans 6:17-18**
2. **Acts 2:41** – "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."