

Questions About 10 Commandments vs Need for Baptism & Jesus' Baptism Covering Me

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Do you have to be baptized to be saved and enter the kingdom of God? Is it enough to practice the Seventh-day Adventist faith and keep the 10 Commandments? Will Jesus hold it against you if you're not baptized? If Jesus was baptized and died for our sins, does that cover those who haven't been baptized?

What does the Bible say?

Baptism is clearly commanded in Scripture as part of God's plan for believers:

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."—Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."—Acts 2:38

But it's also important to understand what baptism *represents* — not just the act itself, but the **heart** behind it.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is:

- A **public declaration** of faith in Jesus (Romans 6:3–4),
- A symbol of death to the old life and resurrection to new life,
- A **step of obedience**, not just a ritual.

Jesus Himself was baptized (Matthew 3:13–17), not because He needed cleansing, but to set an **example** for us to follow.

So while baptism **does not earn salvation**, refusing baptism **after knowing its importance** may reflect a resistance to fully surrender to God's will.

What if someone isn't baptized?

God is just and merciful. He looks at the **heart**.

- If a person **never had the opportunity** to be baptized (like the thief on the cross in Luke 23:39–43), they are not lost. Jesus saves them by His grace.
- But if someone **knows** baptism is a command of Jesus and **chooses not** to obey, that reveals a heart that is not fully surrendered to Him.

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”—James 4:17

What about keeping the commandments?

Yes, keeping God’s commandments—including the **seventh-day Sabbath**—is important. But commandment-keeping must flow from **love for Jesus**, not from trying to earn salvation.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”—John 14:15

But remember: **salvation is not by works**, including Sabbath-keeping or baptism. It is **by grace through faith** (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Obedience is the **fruit** of salvation—not the root of it.

Final Answer:

- **Do you need baptism to be saved?** It is not the act itself that saves, but the **faith and obedience** it represents.
- **Is baptism required?** Yes—if you have the chance and know the truth, it is a **step of love and surrender** that Jesus asks of us.
- **Will Jesus hold it against you?** He lovingly invites you to follow Him all the way—not halfway. Rejecting baptism after knowing its meaning would be rejecting an important part of His plan.

If you’re wrestling with this, you’re not alone. God is calling you lovingly—not to fear, but to **full surrender**.