

# BAPTISM—THE BEGINNING AND THE END

## INTRODUCTION

The action and importance of baptism is often misunderstood in the religious world.

- 1) Some believe it is NOT essential to salvation, though admit that it is commanded of God, but if it is commanded by the Lord, would a refusal to be baptized, not be a sin to refuse it?
- 2) Some practice baptism in their denominations, but for other reasons than salvation, either to get INTO their denomination, or to please a husband or wife, but **not** to “be saved.”
- 3) Some practice what they **call** “baptism” while either sprinkling water on the head of a candidate, or dipping the finger of a baptizer in water and touching the forehead of the candidate for baptism, even though the word “baptism” means to bury, to plunge under, or to immerse.
- 4) Even some in the Lord’s church there is a movement to remove baptism from requirements of salvation.

To better understand God’s purpose in baptism, for the penitent believer, we need to consider it both as a **beginning** and an **end**.

## DISCUSSION

### **I. In the first place, let’s consider baptism AS THE END.**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>, baptism is an END in that it is the **final act in one’s conversion** to Christ. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41, 47; 1 Pet. 3:21
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, baptism is an END to **bondage** to Satan and sin. Rom. 6:3-7
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup>, baptism is the END of spiritual **death** and separation from God. Col. 2:12
- D. 4<sup>th</sup>, baptism is the END of the **guilt of past sins**, for now God has forgiven the sinner of his sinful life to this point. Acts 22:16
- E. 5<sup>th</sup>, baptism is an END to **condemnation** of the past. Rom. 6:3; 8:1
- F. 6<sup>th</sup>, baptism is an END of **living for self**, and not to Christ. Gal. 2:20
- G. 7<sup>th</sup>, baptism brings one in **contact with the blood of Jesus**.
  1. It was IN His death, that Jesus’ blood was shed. John 19:34
  2. The penitent believer is baptized into Jesus’ death to benefit by the blood. Rom. 6:3
- H. 8<sup>th</sup>, and finally, baptism is the END of an **existence in Satan’s** kingdom and power. John 3:5; Col. 1:13
  1. This means that the thief ends his stealing, which is characteristic of Satan’s rule.
  2. This means that the drunkard ends his drinking, which is also Satan’s beverage.
  3. This means that the fornicator ends his or her practice of sexual activity outside of marriage.
  4. This means that the adulterer who is involved in an unscriptural marriage following a divorce, ends that sinful relationship.
  5. This means that the liar ends his lying, which was a practice of Satan’s rule.
  6. This means that the rebellious sinner ends his disobedience to God. Luke 7:29-30

## **II. In the second place, let's consider baptism AS THE BEGINNING**

A. 1<sup>st</sup>, baptism is the beginning of a **new spiritual life** as children of God. Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:26-27; 2 Cor. 5:17

B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, baptism is the beginning of existence in **a new institution**. John 3:5; Col. 1:13; 1 Cor. 12:13

C. 3<sup>rd</sup>, baptism is the beginning of a new life of **living, worship and service** to God.

1. One who is baptized lives differently than before, in order to keep saved.
2. One who is properly baptized will want to worship faithfully every time the church assembles, in order to sing praises to God, give of his or her means, commune in the Lord's Supper, and be edified by the preaching of God's word. Acts 2:42
3. One who is properly baptized will want to do God's will in every way possible.
  - a. This involves setting a good Christian example before the lost world, so as to influence them for the Lord, and help them find the way of salvation.
  - b. It involves meditating on God's will every day, which is spiritual food for the soul to make one stronger in the faith.
  - c. It involves meeting with other Christians in Bible study, so as to learn how to keep saved and prevent apostasy.

D. 4<sup>th</sup>, baptism is the beginning of **a new relationship with Christ**. 2 Cor. 5:17

E. 5<sup>th</sup>, baptism is the beginning of the privilege of being **called a "Christian."** Acts 11:6; 1 Pet. 4:16

F. 6<sup>th</sup>, and finally, baptism is the beginning of a life that will someday **end in heaven**, if one remains faithful in God's kingdom and service. Rev. 22:14; 1 Cor. 15:58

### **CONCLUSIONa**

I. Thus, we have seen that baptism is an END of certain things, but more importantly, it is the BEGINNING of many adventurous activities and relationships.

II. If you are not a Christian, you need to begin your journey today in becoming one, by confessing faith in Jesus, repenting of every sin, and be buried with Christ in baptism, or if you have abandoned the life of being a Christian, you need to return to the Lord in repentance and prayer.

Don Tarbet