

HEBREWS 6:1-3

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

Denomination (U.S.)	What baptism is for	Is baptism necessary for salvation?
The Catholic Church	Washes away original and personal sin, unites a person to Christ, imparts sanctifying grace, incorporates them into the Church, and begins the Christian life.	Ordinarily yes. The Church teaches baptism is the normal means established by Christ for salvation, while recognizing exceptions such as "baptism of desire" and "baptism of blood."
Southern Baptist Convention	An ordinance symbolizing a believer's faith, union with Christ, forgiveness already received, and public profession of faith.	No. Salvation is by grace through faith alone; baptism follows conversion as an act of obedience.
The United Methodist Church	A sacrament through which God offers grace, incorporates believers into the Church, and marks the beginning of the covenant life. Infants may be baptized.	No. Baptism is an important means of grace but is not considered absolutely necessary for salvation.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Remission of sins, entrance into God's covenant, and prerequisite for receiving the Holy Ghost by confirmation.	Yes. Baptism by proper priesthood authority is generally required for salvation (with proxy baptism available for the deceased).
Church of God in Christ	An ordinance commanded by Christ that publicly identifies believers with Him and follows repentance and faith.	Generally no. Salvation comes through faith in Christ; baptism is expected in obedience but is not usually viewed as the act that saves.

<u>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</u>	A sacrament through which God forgives sins, grants new birth, gives the Holy Spirit, and unites a person to Christ.	Normally yes, but not absolutely. Lutherans teach God truly works through baptism, while also affirming God is not bound to the sacrament.
<u>National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.</u>	A symbolic ordinance expressing faith, repentance, and identification with Christ after conversion.	No. Baptism is an act of obedience following salvation by faith.
<u>Assemblies of God USA</u>	A public testimony of identification with Christ's death and resurrection; an ordinance for believers.	No. Salvation is by grace through faith; baptism is commanded but not a condition for salvation.
<u>The Episcopal Church</u>	A sacrament of new birth into Christ, forgiveness of sin, incorporation into the Church, and reception of the Holy Spirit.	Generally yes as the normative means, but not taught as an absolute requirement that limits God's saving grace.
<u>Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)</u>	A sacrament and sign of God's covenant, union with Christ, cleansing from sin, and incorporation into the Church.	No. Baptism is important and commanded but is not regarded as necessary for salvation.

How can **anyone** understand it?

The Role Of **BAPTISM**



1. CHANGE IS **HARD**

75% of people stay in the same Christian denomination throughout their entire life.

(Pew Religious Landscape Study 2023-2024)

2. YOU MAY BE **WRONG**

We have a hard time dealing with that.

(Acts 9:29)

3. TRUTH IS KNOWABLE

It may take work, but it's out there.

(John 8:32)

A cinematic photograph of a baptism in a desert setting. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a blue robe is being baptized in a river by another man with a beard and a tan robe. The man being baptized has his eyes closed and a peaceful expression. In the background, a third man stands on the rocky bank near a wooden cart. The landscape is arid with rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

**How would someone
learn what the bible
teaches about baptism?**

READ THE VERSES

MARK 1:1-4

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” **John appeared, baptizing** in the wilderness and proclaiming a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

LUKE 7:29-30

(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, **having been baptized** with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers **rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.**)



**John's ministry prepared the way for Jesus,
by calling all men to repentance and baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

JOHN 4:1-3

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that **Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John** (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MARK 16:15-16

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Jesus also commanded baptism, both in his public ministry and before His ascension. He tied it to discipleship and salvation.



ACTS 2:37-28

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 8:35-36

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture **he told him the good news about Jesus**. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “**See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?**”

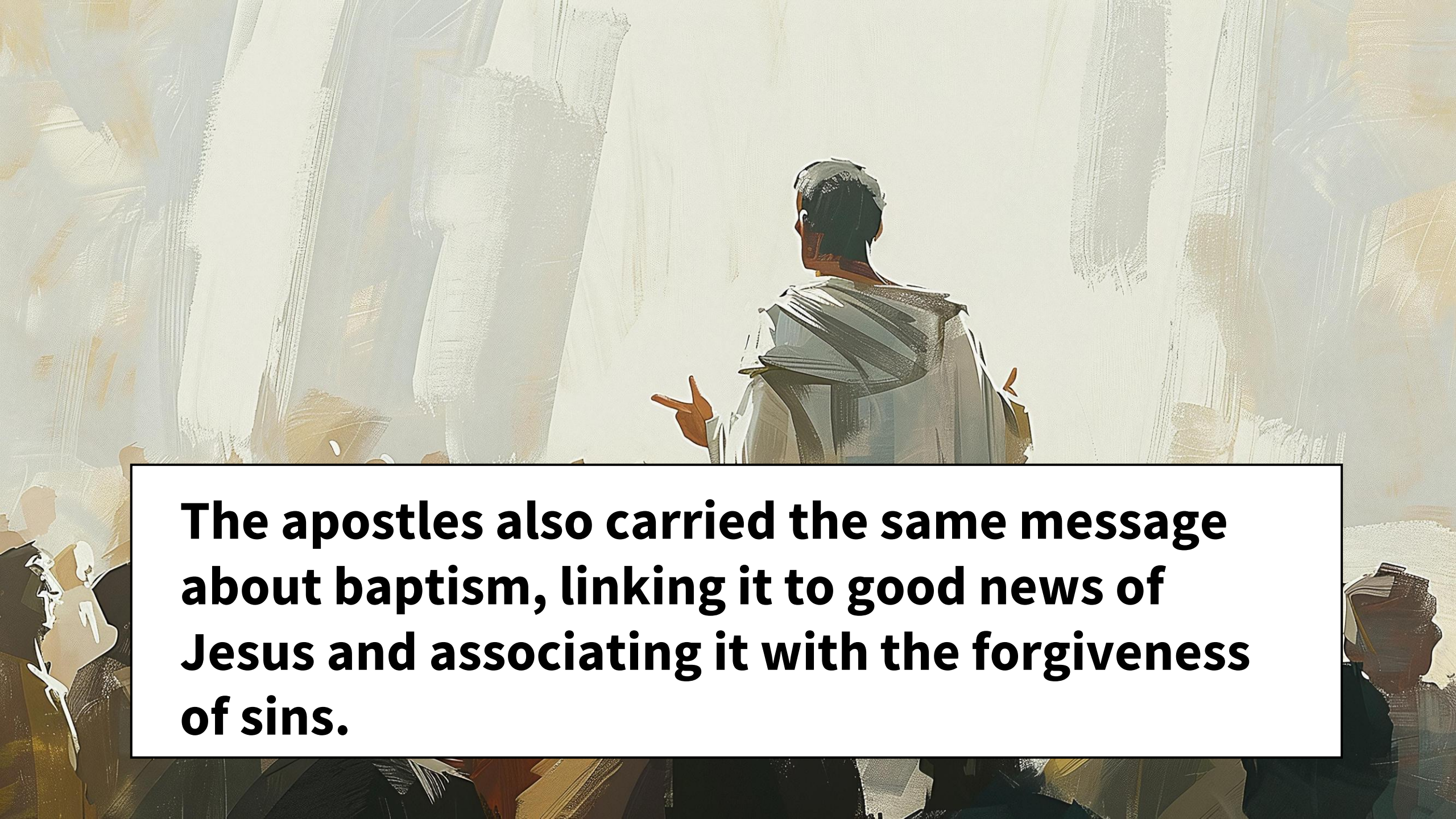
ACTS 16:30-33

Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**” And they said, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and **immediately he was baptized**, he and all his household.

ACTS 22:10,16

And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there **you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.**'

And now why do you wait? Rise and **be baptized and wash away your sins**, calling on his name.'



The apostles also carried the same message about baptism, linking it to good news of Jesus and associating it with the forgiveness of sins.

ROMANS 6:4-5

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1ST PETER 3:20-21

“...because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,** not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...”

COLOSSIANS 2:11-13

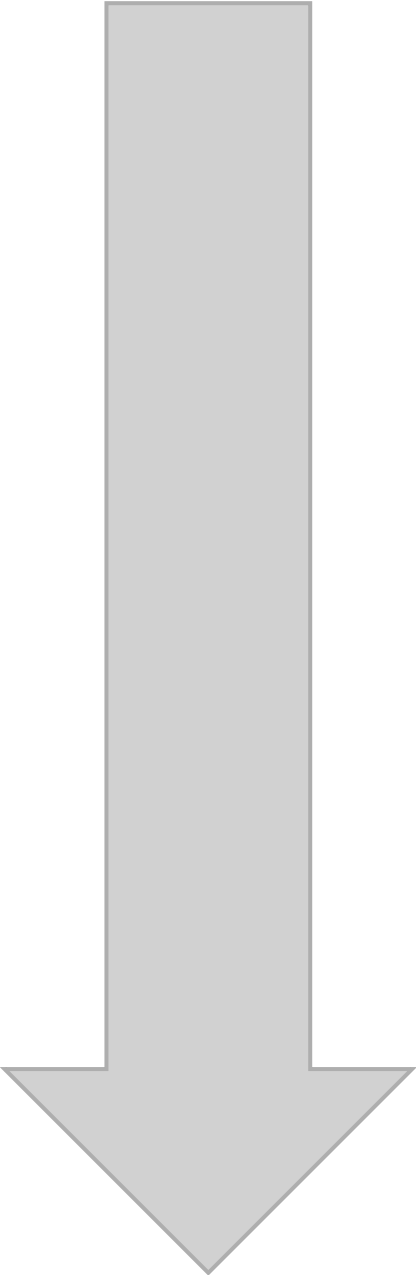
In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him through faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses**,

GALATIANS 3:26-27

“...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**”



The epistles add depth to our understanding of baptism, comparing it to Noah and the ark, circumcision, a burial and resurrection, all leading to a new life and salvation.



UNDERSTANDING

BELIEF

CONVICTION

CONFESSION

BAPTISM



And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away**, and the eunuch saw him no more, **and went on his way rejoicing.**