

## Baptism is NOT the Gospel

One of the most serious errors that has ever infiltrated the church is that water baptism is somehow involved in salvation. This is a FALSE gospel. Paul point blank tells us that baptism is DISTINCT from the GOSPEL.

### 1 Corinthians 1:17 (NKJV)

**17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

After His resurrection, Christ “***beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.***” (Lk. 24:27). This is the New Testament GOSPEL, but He shared it with them out of the Old Testament Scriptures. The GOSPEL is embedded in the OT Scriptures.

In Luke 24:44-47 we find that Jesus opened the understanding of the disciples on the Emmaus Road so that they could comprehend the OT Scriptures, telling them, “***Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.***”

This is the GOSPEL MESSAGE. It is this message that calls for repentance and it is to this message that He then tells the apostles, “***And you are witnesses of these things.***” (cf. Lk. 24:48; Acts 10:39-43)

Paul’s gospel message, concerning the death and resurrection of Christ, which he shared far and wide with everyone, was embedded in the OT Scriptures. The FULL gospel of Christ was FULLY found in those OT Scriptures.

### Acts 26:22–23 (NKJV)

**22** Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—

**23** that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

### Romans 1:1–2 (NKJV)

**1** Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

**2** which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

Paul’s gospel by which we are saved was according to the OT Scriptures.

### **1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)**

**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

**2 by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**,

**4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**,

The POINT is that baptism was not a part of this Old Testament gospel message. Baptism is not found in the OT at all! Baptism is not the gospel!

The Jews in the OT practiced ceremonial cleansing rituals but the ritual of water baptism proper as it came to be practiced in the New Testament was first introduced by John the Baptist who got the idea from heaven (cf. Mk. 11:30). John's baptism was a ritual that signified repentance in preparation for the coming Messiah (Matt. 3:1-3; Mark 1:4). New Testament baptism identifies with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (cf. Acts 19:4-5).

In Galatians One, Paul at length shows that his gospel came directly from Jesus Christ ALONE (Gal. 1:12). Ananias followed up by then talking to Paul about BAPTISM, but not about the GOSPEL (cf. Acts 9, 22, 26).

### **Galatians 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **accursed**.

Any other GOSPEL other than that which was preached by Paul is accursed. It is most serious to make baptism or any other WORK a part of the gospel message. Once people believe the GOSPEL, of course, they are then COMMANDED to be baptized (cf. Acts 10:48). But baptism comes AFTER salvation as a testimony of IDENTIFICATION and is not the MEANS of salvation. Baptism is the fruit of salvation, not the root.

### **Romans 1:16 (NKJV)**

**16** For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for **everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Baptism doesn't change our state, but simply states our change!