

Some Things You **Won't** Read About Baptism in the New Testament

by Bill Crews

1. You won't read about infants being baptized. Only penitent believers were baptized in the New Testament. Mark 16:16 says, *"He that believeth, and is baptized shall be saved."* Acts 2:38 says, *"Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you."* Acts 2:41 says, *"They then that received his word were baptized."* Acts 8:36-37 says, *"...What doth hinder me to be baptized; If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest."* Acts 8:12 says, *"But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."* Infants are not lost in sin; they do not need to be baptized; and they cannot meet these prerequisites.

2. You won't read about any one having water sprinkled or poured upon him in being baptized. Acts 8:38,39 says, *"And they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water..."* The eunuch would have had sufficient water with him for sprinkling or pouring, so a stop at water along the road would have been unnecessary. Romans 6:4 says, *"We were buried therefore with Him through baptism into death."* Colossians 2:12 says, *"Having been buried with Him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God."* Hebrews 10:22 says, *"And having our body washed with pure water."* Ephesians 5 :26 says, *"Having cleansed it (the church) by the washing of water with the word."* Titus 3:5 says, *"Through the washing of regeneration."* John 3:5 says, *"Except one be born (or brought forth) of water."*

3. You won't read about baptism being delayed, not even a few hours. As soon as the lost were convicted of their sins, as soon as they became penitent believers, they were baptized. "Candidates" for baptism were never put off or saved up until some future or convenient time. Acts 2:41 says, *"They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls."* Acts 8:12 says, *"But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized."* Acts 8:30-39 — The eunuch was baptized upon hearing Philip preach Jesus and upon confessing that he believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The chariot was stopped that he might be baptized then and there by Philip. Acts 22: 16 says, *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on His name."* Acts 9:18 gives Saul's response: *"And straightway there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and he arose and was baptized."* Acts 16:33 says, *"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes: and was baptized, he and all his, immediately."*

4. You won't read about any one being baptized into a congregation or local church. They were baptized into Christ. Galatians 3 :27 says, *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* Romans 6:3 says, *"All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death."* They were baptized into the one body, the church, the spiritual body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12: 13 says, *"For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body."* See also Ephesians 1 :22-23 and Colossian 1:8 which identify the one body as the church.

5. You won't read about any one being in Christ, being saved, having his sins remitted, becoming a disciple of Christ, having his sins washed away before he was baptized. Therefore you won't read about any one being baptized in order that he might declare or show that he had already been saved. Baptism, like faith and repentance, is before discipleship (Matthew 28:19), before salvation (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21), before remission of sins (Acts 2:38), before rejoicing (Acts 8:38-39), before washing away of sins (Acts 22: 16), before entrance into the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5).

6. You won't read about any one being voted upon by the members of a congregation before being baptized. Congregational approval was not a prerequisite to baptism.

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