

# Study by Mail



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This course is:

- Conducted entirely by mail.
- Completely undenominational.
- Free of charge.
- Based directly on the Bible.
- Seven easy-to-understand lessons.

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“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...’  
(Acts 2:38)

## The Necessity of



# BAPTISM

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# The Necessity of Baptism

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Even though a careful study of the New Testament shows baptism for the remission of sins to be necessary for salvation, many people and religious denominations teach otherwise. If a person is honestly seeking the salvation of his soul, though, he will endeavor to do what God commands even though it may be contrary to the thoughts of many people or to popular religious groups.

One needs to understand, you see, that man is not a proper source for salvation. Mankind has never had, nor will he ever have, neither right nor ability to formulate conditions for salvation or to grant eternal life. God alone has that authority.

In Matthew 21:23, the chief priests and elders confronted Jesus in the temple because the previous day He had driven out the money changers and those who sold doves telling them that He would not allow them to make His Father's house a den of thieves. Those chief priests and elders wanted to know, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" Jesus responded by asking a question of them, "The baptism of John— where was it from? From heaven or from men?" Those men did not know how to reply to Him because they knew that any answer they gave would

condemn them. For their only two alternatives were that John's baptism originated with men or with God from heaven. The people regarded John as a man of God so they would not say his teaching was from man because they did not want to alienate the people. Also, even though they were intent on rejecting Jesus, they still understood that if a command is from heaven it must be obeyed because only God has the authority and ability to command.

God has commanded that if a person is going to be saved, he must be baptized for the remission of his sins.

By noting just three passages from Scripture, baptism can easily be established as an integral part of God's plan for the redemption of mankind.

**Matthew 28:18-20.** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

**Mark 16:15-16.** "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is *baptized*

will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

**Acts 2:38-39.** "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you *be baptized* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'"

Jesus is speaking in two of these Scriptures while the apostle Peter, being guided by the Holy Spirit, is speaker in the other. In each passage baptism is presented as necessary for salvation.

Since God's word is truth (John 17:17), since truth does not conflict with truth and since these three references are found in God's truth, where does that leave those who claim that baptism is not essential for salvation? The truth is, it leaves them holding onto a doctrine that cannot be true because it teaches exactly the opposite of what Jesus and Peter taught in these verses.

Consider also what Peter later wrote about baptism. In **1 Peter 3:21** he said, "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

When it comes to my salvation, I would rather listen to and obey what God, not man, tells me to do. Wouldn't you? 🍷