

Baptism Series I:  
A Positive Case for Biblical Baptism

Local numbers



Among adults in Massachusetts ...

### Religiously unaffiliated

**37%**

of adults in Massachusetts identify as religiously unaffiliated.



### Other religions

**11%**

of adults in Massachusetts identify with other religions.



### Christians

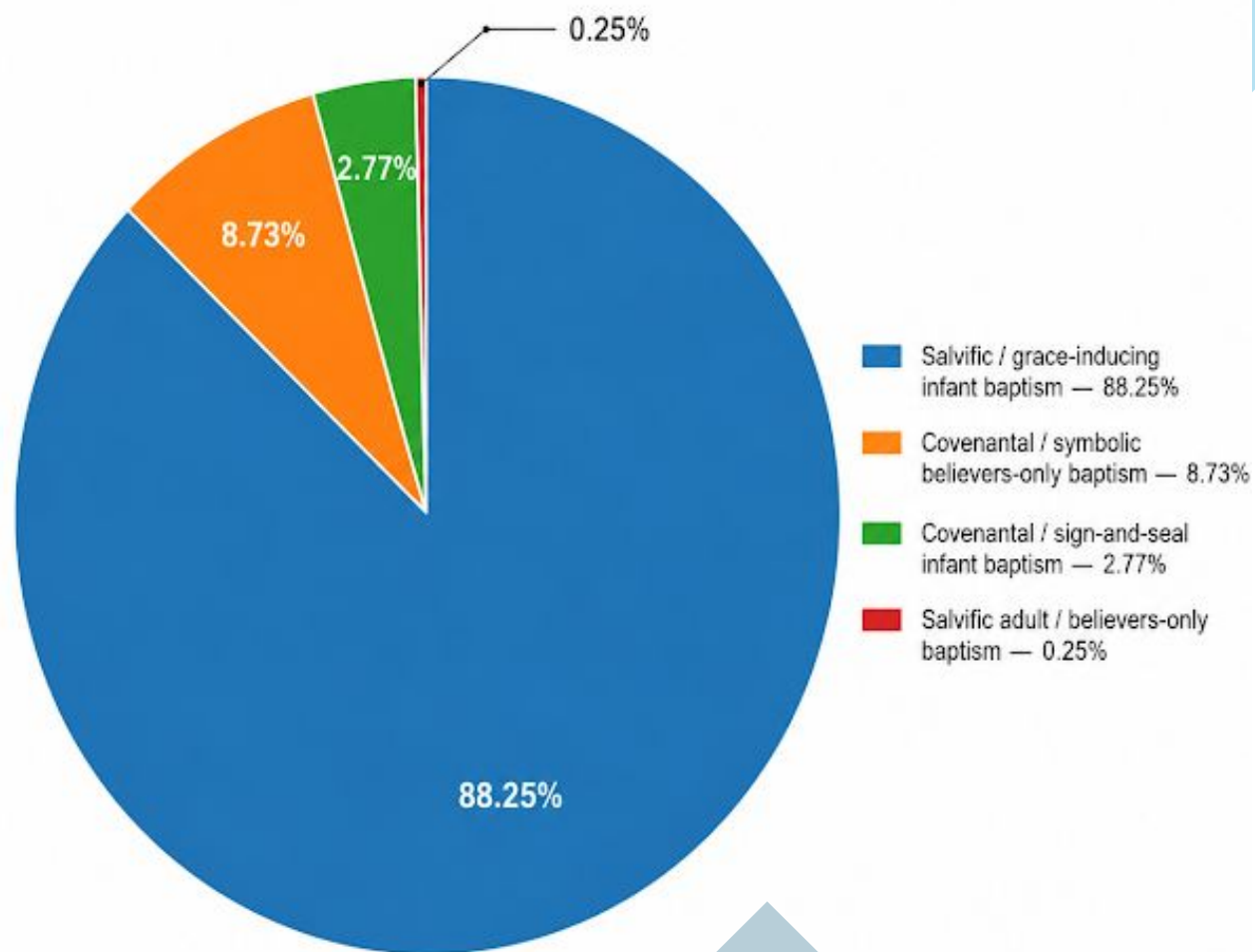
**52%**

of adults in Massachusetts identify as Christians.



Baptismal view	Share of classified MA Christians
Salvific / grace-inducing infant baptism	88.25%
Covenantal / symbolic believers-only baptism	8.73%
Covenantal / sign-and-seal infant baptism	2.77%
Salvific adult / believers-only baptism	0.25%

## Share of Classified Massachusetts Christians by Baptismal View



# The Algorithm



does baptism save you



+5

**Whether baptism saves depends on your denomination's theology.** The Bible includes verses where baptism is linked to salvation. However, there are differing interpretations of these passages across Christian traditions. Reddit · r/TrueChrist... +3

## The Two Main Perspectives

- **Baptism is a means of grace (Sacramental view):** Traditions like the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglican/Episcopalian churches believe baptism is an instrument God uses to forgive sins, grant the Holy Spirit, and bring about spiritual rebirth. They point to scriptures like 1 Peter 3:21 (*"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you..."*) and Acts 2:38 (*"Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins"*).



- **Baptism is a public sign of faith (Symbolic view):** Many Protestant and Evangelical denominations believe that salvation is received by faith alone, and that baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. In this view, baptism is a step of obedience following salvation, but it does not physically or spiritually wash away sin. They often highlight Ephesians 2:8-9 (*"For by grace you have been saved through faith..."*) and the example of the thief on the cross, who was saved without being baptized (Luke 23:43). Reddit · r/TrueChrist... +4

## Dig Deeper

You can explore the biblical arguments and denominational stances in more detail through these resources:

- The [Catholic Answers](#) perspective on baptismal regeneration.
- An explanation of the [GotQuestions.org](#) view on how baptism relates to faith.

Shop [Donate](#)

Ask Questions

# Get Catholic Answers

Search the world's largest database of answers about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. Learn more about Catholicism through articles, books, videos and more.

What's Your Question?

Download our new mobile app! [Get the App](#)

## Got Questions

Search


FIND OUT



[How to go to heaven](#)

[How to get right with God](#)

[Donate](#)

### Bible Questions Answered

 **10,325**  
articles available

**824,091**  
email responses  

Who are the Baptists & Paedobaptists

**Baptists** practice believer's baptism, viewing baptism as an outward symbol of a person's personal saving faith in Jesus— performing it after salvation as an act of obedience.

**Paedobaptists** practice infant baptism,  
\*(generally) viewing baptism as a means of  
grace that grants the seed of faith, or even  
saving faith, in the hearts of baptized infants.

**Paedobaptists** practice infant baptism,  
\*(generally) viewing baptism as a means of  
grace that grants the seed of faith, or even  
saving faith, in the hearts of baptized infants.

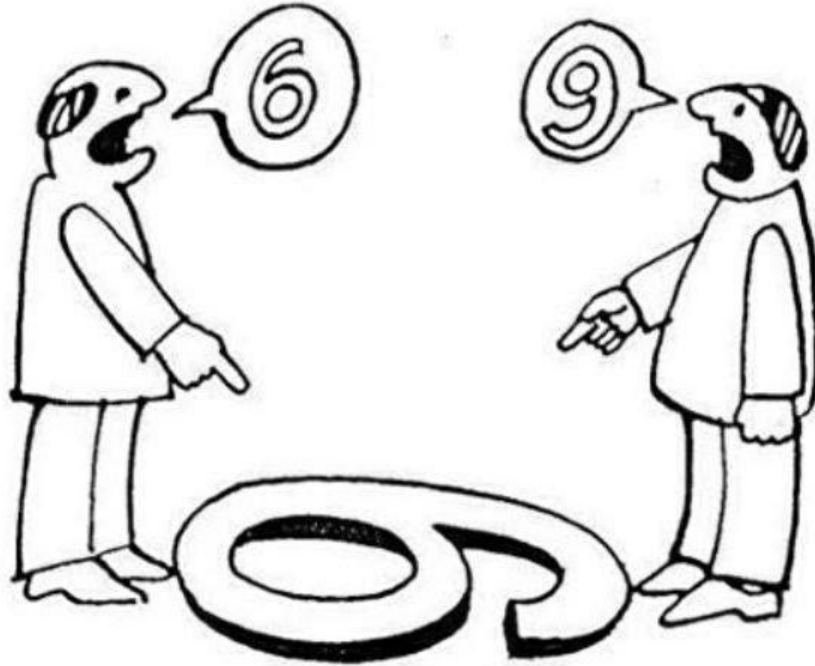
\***Some Paedobaptists** (Presbyterians, Congregationalists)  
practice an infant baptism which views baptism as a covenant  
sign that marks the children of believers as belonging to God's  
*visible* people, to be later personally embraced by faith.

# The Divide

# From Brother Frank's *Intro to Apologetics*:

**Worldview** (n.) –  
“the filter we use to understand the world around us.”

“Two people with different backgrounds see the same thing entirely differently”  
-Brother Frank



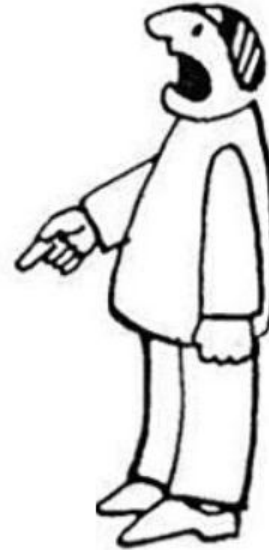
Paedobaptist

**Baptism  
Saves**



Baptist

**Faith  
Saves**



Bible

**Faithful  
Baptism  
Saves**

While both groups emphasize important aspects of God's word; Baptists, **faith** —and Paedobaptists, **baptism**:

“The sum of your word is truth.”

*Psalm 119:160*

## **A Cause for Confidence:**

1. Every passage that says what baptism does says that baptism saves.

## **A Cause for Confidence:**

1. Every passage that says what baptism does says that baptism saves.
2. Every passage that says that baptism saves ties this salvation to the participant's faith, active amidst baptism.

“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

*1 Peter 3:15*

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

	Mark 16:16	Acts 2:41
FAITH	'The one who has believed'	'Repent'
BAPTISM	and has been baptized	and be baptized
SALVATION	will be saved.'	for the forgiveness of your sins.'

## A Positive Case for Biblical Baptism

	Acts 22:16	1 Peter 3:21	Colossians 2:12	Romans 6:3-4
THE LOCATION	'be baptized	'Baptism	'You were buried with him in baptism,	'We have been buried with him through baptism into death,
THE METHOD	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
THE HEART'S ORIENTATION	calling on his name.'	as an appeal to God for a good conscience.'	through faith in the working of God.'	'Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted.'

# Mark 16:15

Then he [Jesus] said to them [the apostles],

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation...”

Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

**Baptists** claim the believer is saved *before, or without*, baptism.

**Paedobaptists** claim, with infants, that the *unbeliever* is saved by baptism.

# **Pastoralis action (From the the Vatican)**

## *INSTRUCTION ON INFANT BAPTISM*

“The fact that infants cannot yet profess personal faith does not prevent the Church from conferring this sacrament on them... the child who is baptized believes not on its own account, by a personal act, but through others, "through the Church's faith communicated to it." This same teaching is also expressed in the new Rite of Baptism, when the celebrant asks the parents and godparents to profess the Faith of the Church, the Faith in which the children are baptized.”

# Faith → Baptism → Salvation

**Mark 16:16**

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

**Lutherans** claim that the participant is saved by *faith alone*, therefore baptism gives the participating infant *saving faith*, so the implied reading is:

*"The one who is baptized has faith created in them that receives the salvation baptism gives to faith."*

# The Baptist Objection:

<i>Mark 16:16a</i>		<i>Mark 16:16b</i>
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"The one who does not believe
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	will be condemned."

“but Jesus does not say that the unbaptized will be condemned.”



**needGod.net** ✓

@needGod\_net



Mark 16:16 doesn't teach baptism is a requirement to be saved.

It speaks about 2 kinds of people:

1. Those who believe and are baptized = SAVED
2. Those who don't believe = CONDEMNED

But that verse doesn't speak about those who believe and are NOT baptized. It doesn't say those people are condemned. It just doesn't say anything about them.

The only people condemned in Mark 16:16 are the people who don't BELIEVE.

Therefore:

<i>Mark 16:16a</i>		<i>Mark 16:16b</i>
FAITH	"The one who has believed	"The one who does not believe
BAPTISM	<del>and has been baptized</del>	
SALVATION	will be saved."	will be condemned."

“And baptism is only mentioned here because believers are typically baptized.”

The one who

- a gathers wood and
- b ignites it
- will have a bonfire

The one who does **not**

- a gather wood
- x will **not** have a bonfire.

The one who

- a enrolls in college courses and
- b completes course requirements
- will get a degree.

The one who does **not**

- a enroll in the college course
- x will **not** get a degree.

The one who

- a sows seeds and
- b tends his garden
- will grow a crop.

The one who does **not**

- a sow seeds
- x will **not** grow a crop.

The one who

- a looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and
- b perseveres
- will be blessed in what he does. [*James 1:25*]

The one who does **not**

- a look intently into the perfect law of freedom
- x will **not** be blessed in what he does.

The one who

a gathers wood and

b ignites it

will have a bonfire

The one who does **not**

a gather wood

x will **not** have a bonfire.

b can only be done by those who have done  a.

The one who

a enrolls in a college course and

b completes course requirements

will get college credits.

The one who does **not**

a enroll in the college course

x will **not** get college credits.

The one who

a sows seeds and

b tends his garden

will grow a crop.

The one who does **not**

a sow seeds

x will **not** grow a crop.

The one who

a looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and

b perseveres

will be blessed in what he does. [*James 1:25*]

The one who does **not**

a look intently into the perfect law of freedom

x will **not** be blessed in what he does.

baptism can only be received by those who have believed.

**Mark 16:16a**

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

**Mark 16:16b**

"The one who does not believe
<i>~<u>will</u> not be- and <u>can</u> not be baptized, ergo they~</i>
will be condemned."

**baptism** can only be received by those who have **believed**.

*Mark 16:16a*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

*Mark 16:16b*

"The one who does not believe
will be condemned."

# Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."

Jesus is clear.

**Matthew 28:19-20:**

He said: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What did the apostles command?

# Acts 2:14-36, Peter Preached His First Sermon

V:36-38:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When [the crowd] heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Faith → Baptism → Salvation

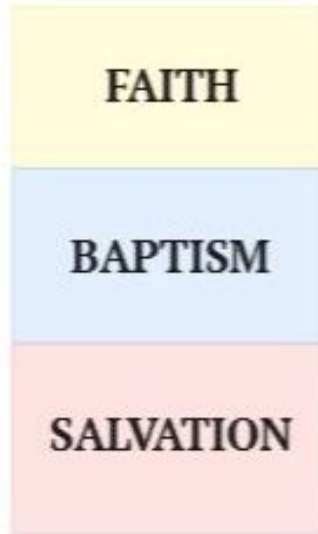
*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Acts 2:38*



**Paedobaptists** claim, with infants, that the unrepentant baptized person receives the forgiveness of sins.

*This interpretation rejects the sum of the passage.*



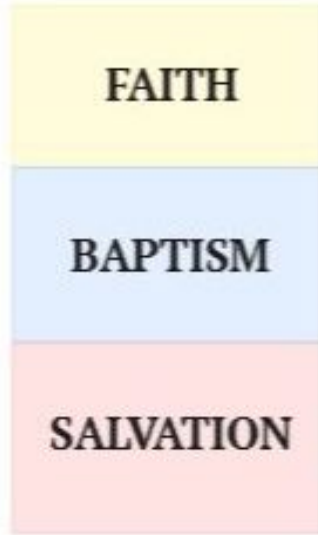
Another brief note:  
Only **believers** were baptized that day.

*Acts 2:38*

*Acts 2:41*

FAITH	"Repent	"So those who accepted his message
BAPTISM	and be baptized	were baptized,
SALVATION	for the forgiveness of your sins."	and that day about three thousand people were added to them."

# Faith → Baptism → Salvation

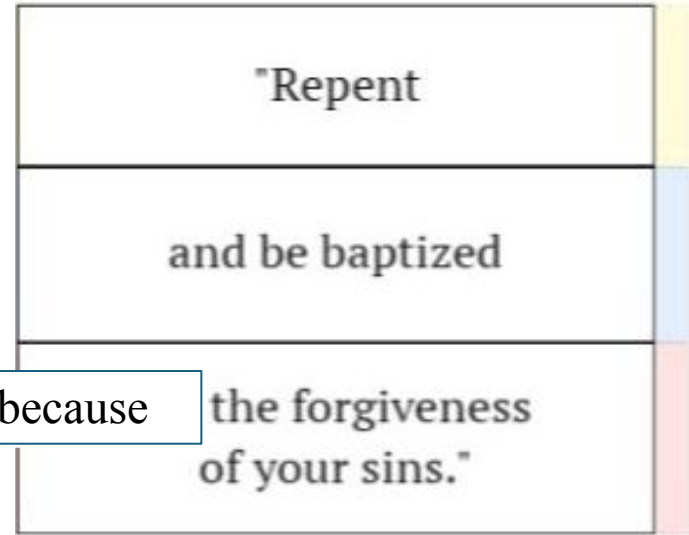


**Baptists** claim that the *unbaptized* repentant person receives the forgiveness of sins prior to baptism.

This is sometimes justified by saying “for” means “because”, like it can in English, as in the sentence:

“Be rewarded *for* your bravery”

*Acts 2:38*



# Does εἰς mean “because”?

## Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

against, among, as, at, backward, before

A primary preposition; to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time, or (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.); also in adverbial phrases -- (abundant-)ly, against, among, as, at, (back-)ward, before, by, concerning, + continual, + far more exceeding, for (intent, purpose), fore, + forth, in (among, at, unto, -so much that, -to), to the intent that, + of one mind, + never, of, (up-)on, + perish, + set at one again, (so) that, therefore(-unto), throughout, til, to (be, the end, -ward), (here-)until(-to),...ward, (where-)fore, with. Often used in composition with the same general import, but only with verbs (etc.) Expressing motion (literally or figuratively).

## HELPS Word-studies

**1519** *eis* (a preposition) – properly, *into* (*unto*) – literally, “*motion into* which” implying *penetration* (“unto,” “union”) to a particular *purpose* or *result*.

“When it comes to Acts 2:38,  
no serious grammarians [believe in a causal ε ἰζ] today.”

Dr. Tom Schreiner  
Christian Standard Bible Translator

*What “For The Forgiveness of sins” means in the New Testament:*

Luke 24:46-47

“The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and Repentance *for forgiveness of sins* will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Matthew 26:28

“For this is my blood of the covenant,  
which is poured out for many *for the forgiveness of sins.*”

**“FOR”:** *Because of?*

# Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

If you were hearing these words from Jesus or Peter in the 1st century and decided to be baptized- in obeying these words- would you approach baptism believing you'd be saved by God in baptism?

# Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

Naturally. So if a believer obeys the pattern set forth by Jesus & Peter above, entering baptism intent on salvation, they naturally approach baptism with a heart that trusts God to act in that moment to save them.

Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism  
is not only implied by the above, but is demonstrated throughout scripture:

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

<i>Mark 16:16</i>		<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

### The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."

**Baptists** claim that calling on the name of the Lord *outside of baptism* washes away sins

**Paedobaptists** claim that being baptized *without the participant calling on the name of the Lord* washes away sins

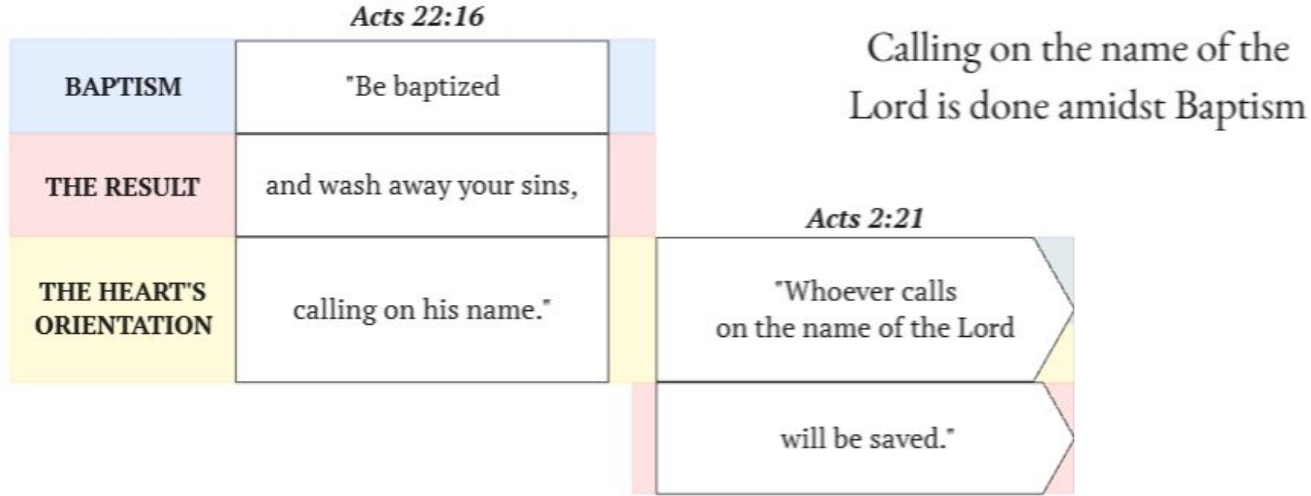
*Acts 22:16*

<b>BAPTISM</b>	"Be baptized
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."

Calling on the name of the Lord is done amidst Baptism

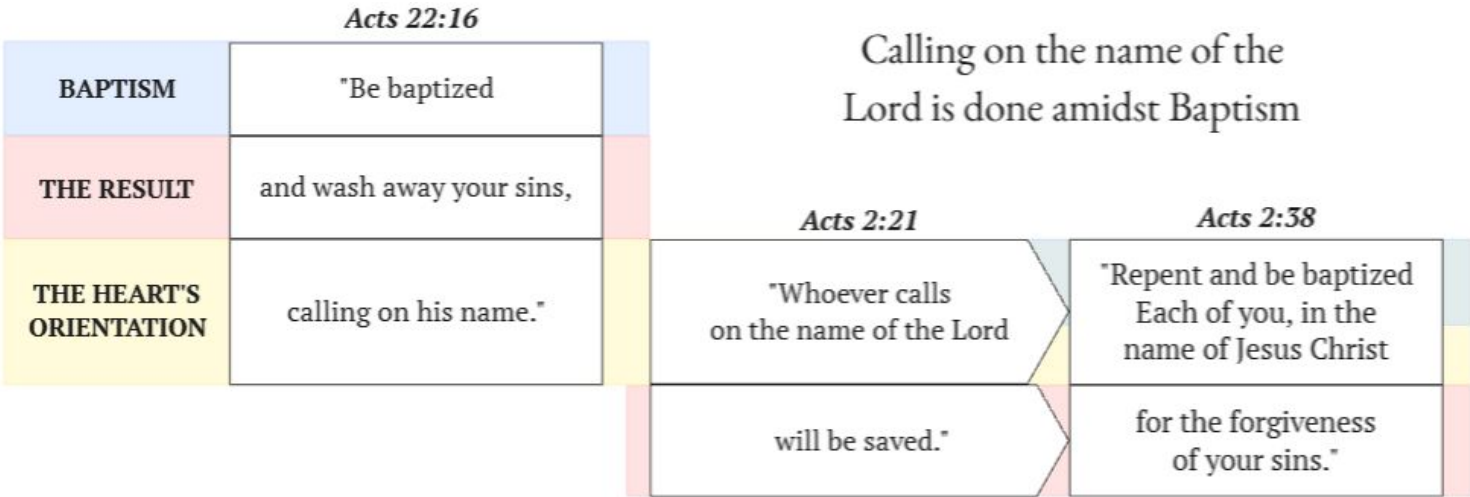
*Acts 2:21*

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved."

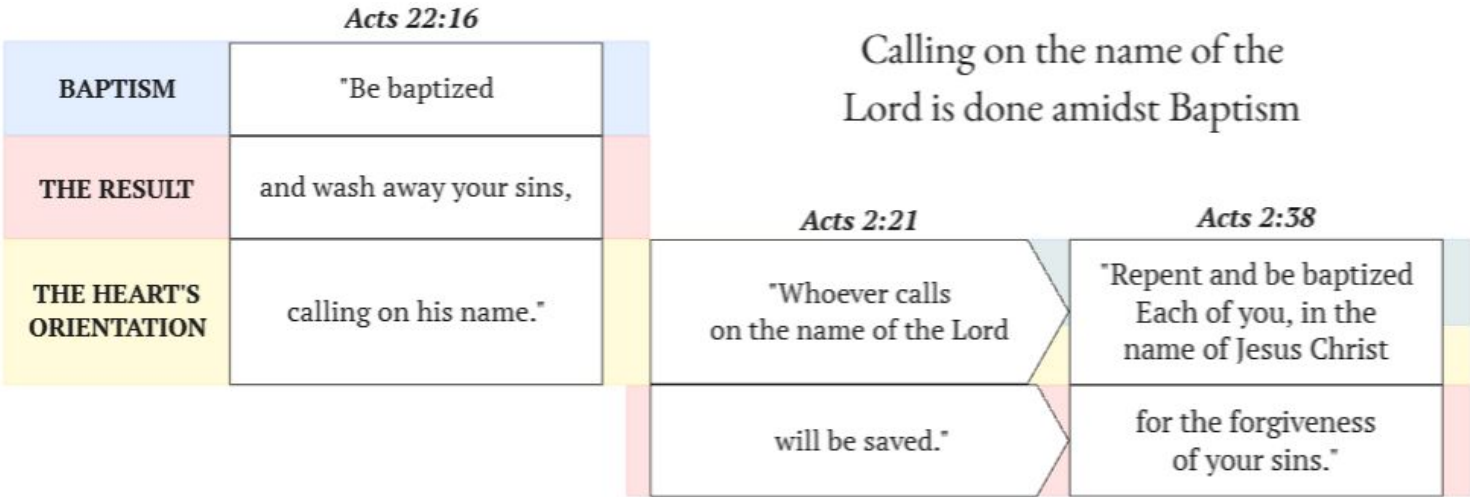


Here Peter finishes reminding a crowd of what was prophesied by Joel in Joel 2, teaching the crowd that this precise prophecy was being fulfilled that very day.

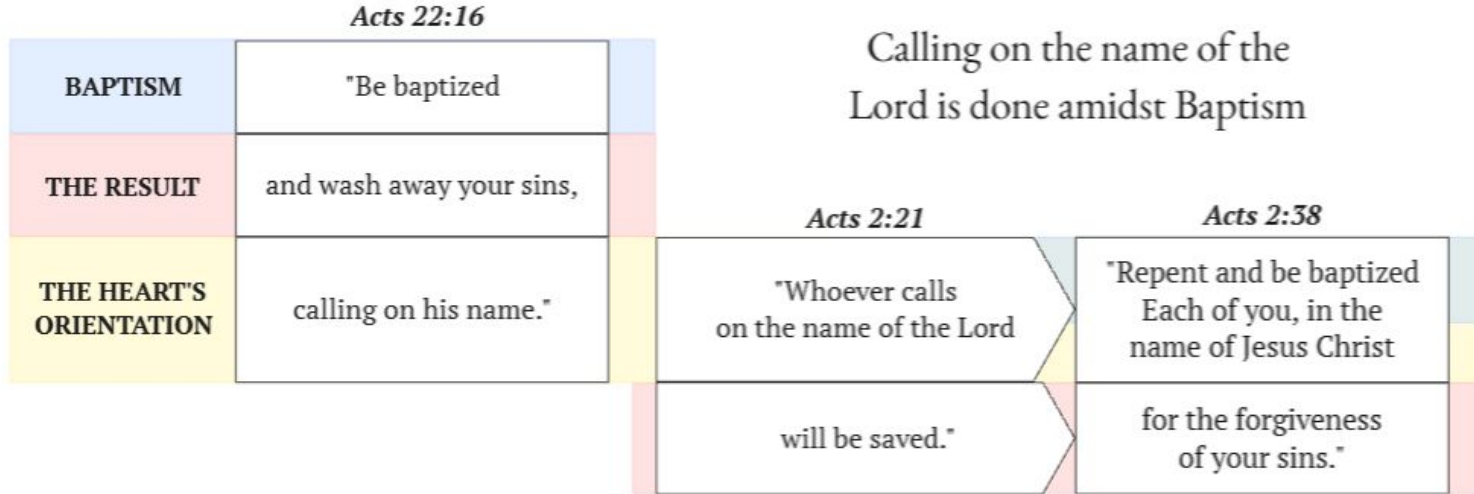
He immediately follows this by preaching the prophetic fulfillment of “Jesus the Nazarene”, “who God has made both Lord and Christ.” After preaching the gospel, he tells the crowd:



Which is to say, Joel 2:32 was being fulfilled that day through the command of Acts 2:38



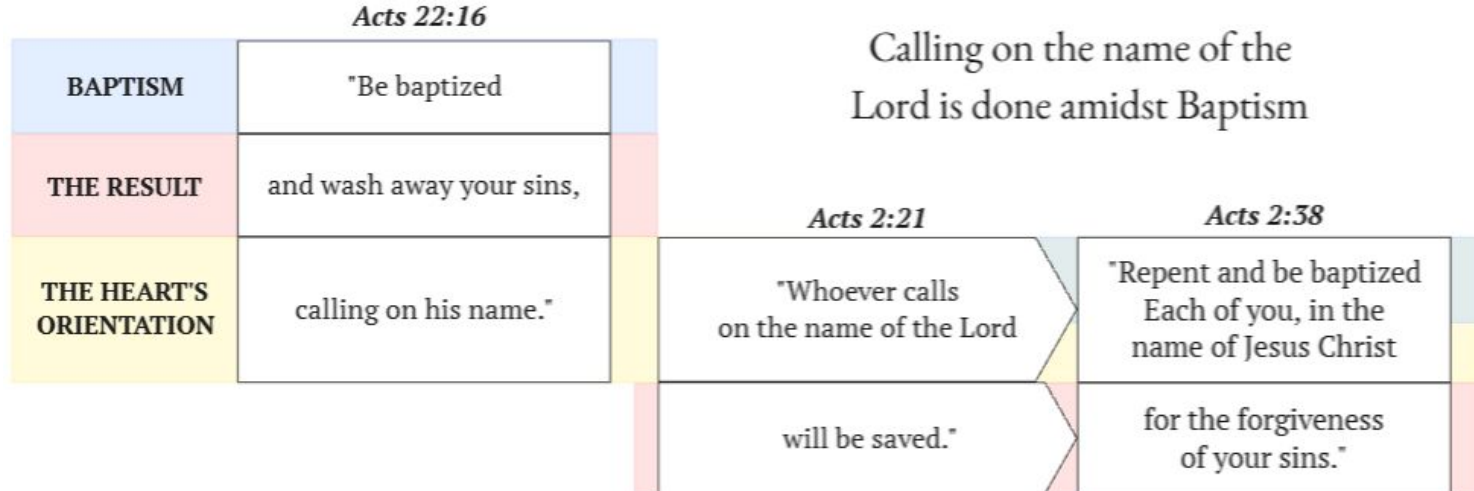
Joel 2:32 is only quoted in one other place in the New Testament



Joel 2:32 is only quoted in one other place in the New Testament

*Romans 10:13-14, 17*

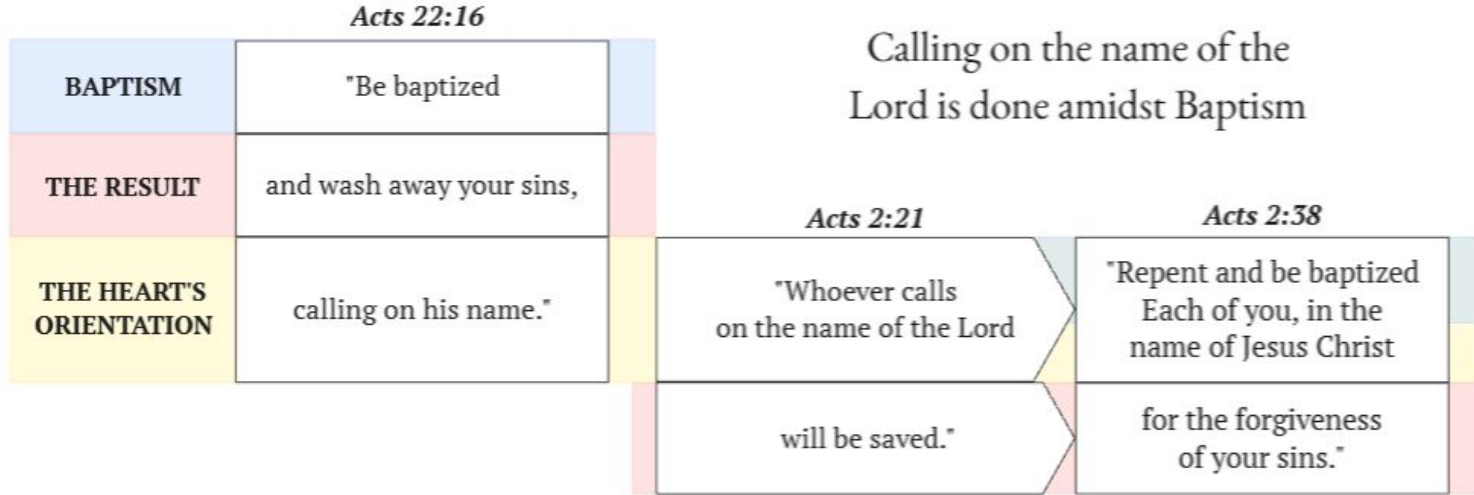
"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."



*Romans 10:13-14, 17*

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

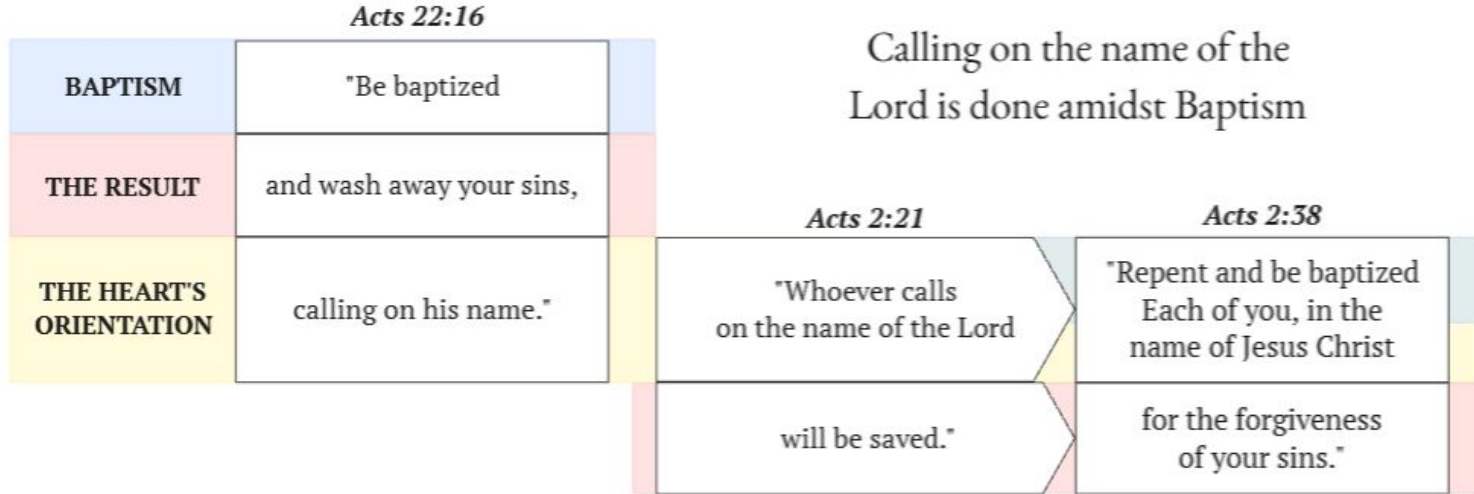
How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.



Hearing the word preached → Believing → Calling on the name of the Lord = → Salvation

*Romans 10:13-14, 17*

<p>"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.</p>



Hearing the word preached → Believing → Calling on the name of the Lord = → Salvation

*Romans 10:13-14, 17*

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**In response to the Paedobaptist:**  
 an infant does not hear the gospel preached and thereby believe it, therefore they are not led to call on the name of the Lord.

**In response to the Baptist:**  
 The moment of salvation here is not at the moment of faith, but with the calling which follows afterwards- a moment both Ananias and Peter above tie to baptism.

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

<i>Mark 16:16</i>		<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

<i>Acts 22:16</i>		<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>
<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."

Peter also ties calling on the name  
of the Lord to baptism elsewhere,  
in 1 Peter 3:21

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

<i>Mark 16:16</i>		<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

<i>Acts 22:16</i>		<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>
<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."

**Paedobaptists** claim that a baptism  
*without the participant's appeal* saves  
you

**Baptists** claim a personal appeal  
*outside of baptism* saves you

*Both disbelieve the sum of the passage.*

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

	<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>
<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."

A few other objections arise:

Is baptism a symbol?

1 Peter 3:20-21 (NIV)

“God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through *water* (ὕδατος, *hydatos*), and *this water* (ὃ, *ho* - “which” or “this”) symbolizes **baptism** that now saves you also.”

1 Peter 3:20-21 (“ho” translated literally)

“...[eight people] were saved through *water*

\*which\* symbolizes **baptism** that now saves you also.”

Peter's point is that the **flood waters** function as a type or symbol that points forward to the **baptism** which **now saves you**.

In other words- Baptism is *not* a symbol.

*The flood waters* are a symbol *of* baptism in water, which saves.

*1 Peter 3:21*

THE LOCATION	"Baptism"
THE RESULT	now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body ☒
THE HEART'S ORIENTATION	but as an appeal to God for a good conscience."

**Another common objection:**

“The full passage says that  
‘baptism saves,  
*not as the washing away of  
dirt from the body*’

Therefore, the baptism in water  
does not in any way save, but  
the appeal to God itself does.”

# Not Dirt, but Sins, washed away

## *1 Peter 3:21*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Baptism"
<b>THE RESULT</b>	now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body ☒
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	but as an appeal to God for a good conscience."

# Not Dirt, but Sins, washed away

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Acts 22:16*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Baptism"	"Be baptized"
<b>THE RESULT</b>	now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body ✕	and ☆ wash away your sins,
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	but as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	calling on his name."

## Not Dirt, but Sins, washed away

	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>	<i>Acts 22:16</i>
<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Baptism	"Be baptized
<b>THE RESULT</b>	now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body ☒	and ☆ wash away your sins,
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	but as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	calling on his name."

While of course both are cleansed in baptism

### *Hebrews 10:22*

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with	
our bodies washed in pure water	our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience



## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

	<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
FAITH	"The one who has believed	"Repent
BAPTISM	and has been baptized	and be baptized
SALVATION	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>	<i>Colossians 2:12</i>
THE LOCATION	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,
THE RESULT	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him
THE HEART'S ORIENTATION	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."

**Baptists** claim one is raised with Christ through faith *before* baptism.

**Paedobaptists** claim, with infants, that one is raised with Christ by baptism *without* personal faith.

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."

Neither system can contend well with the idea that the participant's faith in the working of God raises them in baptism

Except to say, "does that make baptism a work of man?"

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

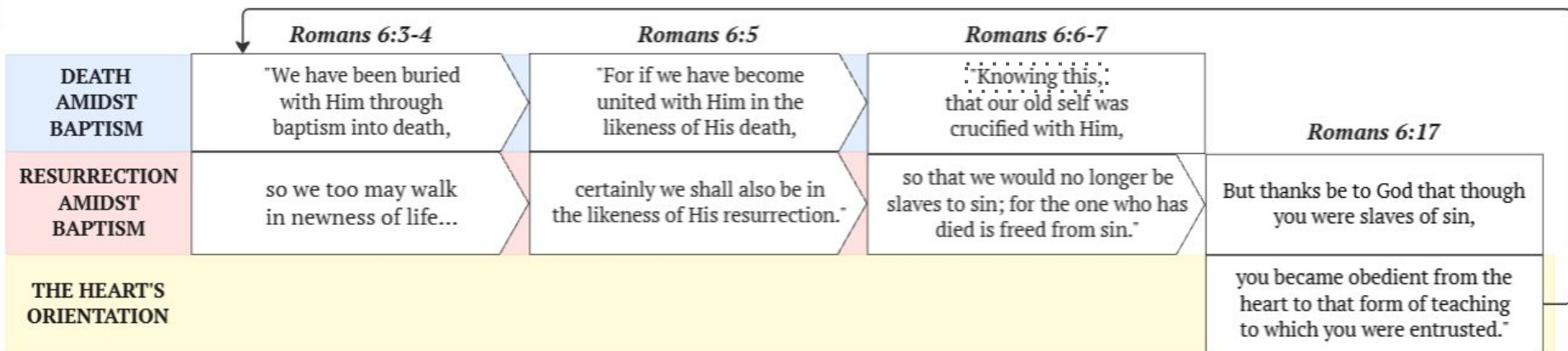
*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

*Romans 6:3-17*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

## The Necessity of Obedience in Baptism



## Obedience to the Gospel

### *Romans 6:3-18*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,	<b><i>1 Peter 1:22</i></b>
<b>THE RESULT</b>	so we too may walk in newness of life...	"You have purified yourselves
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."	by your obedience to the truth."

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

*Romans 6:3-17*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

## **Challenge for Baptists:**

Find a Bible passage that says what baptism does that does not say that baptism saves.

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

*Romans 6:3-17*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

## **Challenge for Baptists:**

Find a Bible passage that says what baptism does that does not say that baptism saves.

## **Challenge for Paedobaptists:**

Find a Bible passage that says that baptism saves that does not tie this salvation to the participant's faith, active amidst baptism.

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

*Mark 16:16*

*Acts 2:38*

<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed	"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized	and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."	for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

*Acts 22:16*

*1 Peter 3:21*

*Colossians 2:12*

*Romans 6:3-17*

<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."

## **Challenge for Baptists:**

Find a Bible passage that says what baptism does that does not say that baptism saves.

## **Challenge for Paedobaptists:**

Find a Bible passage that says that baptism saves that does not tie this salvation to the participant's faith, active amidst baptism.

## **For Presbyterian & Congregationalist Paedobaptists:**

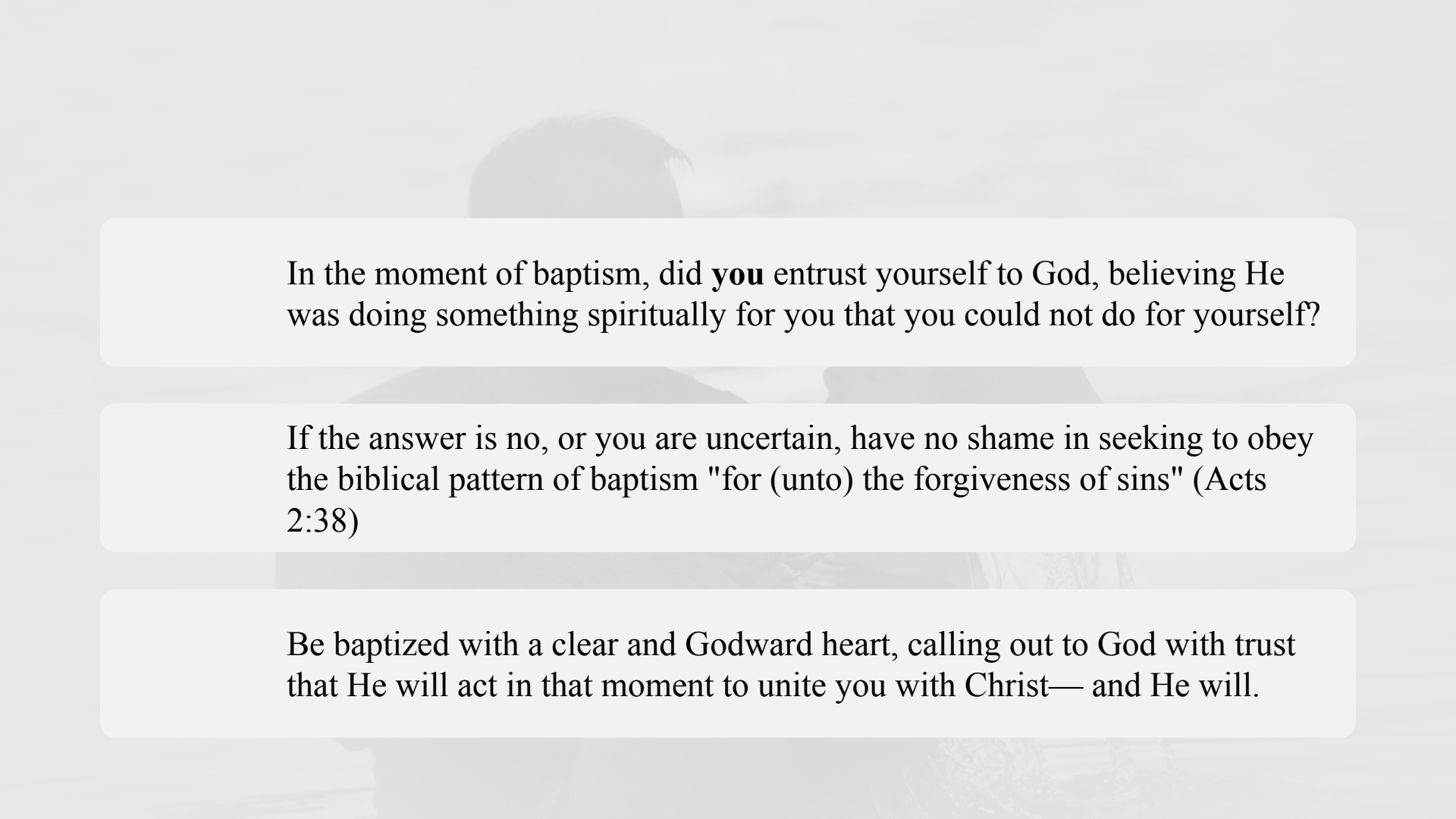
Both challenges stand.

## Faith → Baptism → Salvation

<i>Mark 16:16</i>		<i>Acts 2:38</i>	
<b>FAITH</b>	"The one who has believed		"Repent
<b>BAPTISM</b>	and has been baptized		and be baptized
<b>SALVATION</b>	will be saved."		for the forgiveness of your sins."

## The Godward Faith through Which God Works in Baptism

	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:21</i>	<i>Colossians 2:12</i>	<i>Romans 6:3-17</i>
<b>THE LOCATION</b>	"Be baptized	"Baptism	"You were buried with him in baptism,	"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
<b>THE RESULT</b>	and wash away your sins,	now saves you	in which you were also raised with him	so we too may walk in newness of life...
<b>THE HEART'S ORIENTATION</b>	calling on his name."	as an appeal to God for a good conscience."	through faith in the working of God."	Thanks be to God that you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted."



In the moment of baptism, did **you** entrust yourself to God, believing He was doing something spiritually for you that you could not do for yourself?

If the answer is no, or you are uncertain, have no shame in seeking to obey the biblical pattern of baptism "for (unto) the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38)

Be baptized with a clear and Godward heart, calling out to God with trust that He will act in that moment to unite you with Christ— and He will.

*next week:*

Baptism Series II:  
Answering Baptist Arguments:

*Paul  
Cornelius  
The thief on the cross  
Ephesians 2:8-9  
The Romans Road  
& more*

*June 21:*

Baptism Series III:  
Answering Paedobaptist Arguments:

*The promise "for your children"*  
*The baptism of households*  
*Original Sin/Inherited Guilt*

*June 28:*

Baptism Series IV:  
History & Other Addendums:

*The two sides of every baptism passage  
The baptismal theology of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century church  
Infant Innocence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century church  
The Gnostic rejection of a baptism that saves  
& more*