

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 19: The Drama of Baptism

READ Acts 8:26-40 and Col 2:11-12 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Jesus' last command to His disciples was for them to make disciples – followers of Jesus Christ – of all nations, by doing three things: going to the nations, baptizing the nations and teaching the nations (Matt 28:18-20), and this they did. Through the narrative of Acts the call of the early church was to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized. In this study we will break from the normal expositional teaching throughout Acts and look at the significance of baptism, that we might continue to be faithful, obedient followers of Christ.

Big idea: Baptism for the believer is significant because Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is significant. It symbolises our escape from the wrath of God for our sin and Him bringing us joyfully into His everlasting presence.

Questions:

1. Does water baptism save a person? According to the following verses explain how a person is saved: John 3:16, 6:47; Acts 17:30; Rom 10:13.
2. Read Matt 28:18-20. How important is baptism in Jesus' command to make disciples?
3. Look up the following verses to explain the symbolism of baptism. What does each aspect represent for the believer?
Rom 6:3-7:
Titus 3:5:
Matt 28:19-20:
1 Cor 12:13:
4. How does baptism by full immersion highlight the symbolism best?

5. Look up the following verses and state against each where baptism occurs in the order of someone coming to Christ; think in terms of hearing the Word, responding to the Word etc.

Acts 2:37-38, 41:

Acts 8:12:

Acts 8:35-38:

Acts 9:17-18:

Acts 10:43, 48:

Acts 18:8:

In light of these verses, how would you explain Peter's call for the people to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ..." (Acts 2:38)?

6. What are some ways Christians are to express their faith and show they belong to Christ? It could be said that baptism is Jesus' defined method of expressing our faith. Explain.
7. It has been said that baptism is like a ring ceremony in marriage; it doesn't add to the covenant but is a sign of the covenant. How is this comparison helpful?
8. **Challenge question:** Read Col 2:11-12. What link does Paul make between the Old Testament use of circumcision and the fulfillment in the New Testament? How does the ordinance of baptism dramatize this new circumcision of Christ?
9. Are you baptized? If not, what might be stopping you?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: the Lord for His love expressed in His death, burial and resurrection

Thank: God for the beautiful drama of baptism that He has left us until He comes

Pray: for grace to remain faithful to the Lord's commission to reach people for Christ