

SCRIPTURE VERSES RELATING TO WATER BAPTISM

The following scripture verses and quotes have been taken from the book “Explaining Water Baptism” by David Pawson which is now out of print. This is not an exhaustive treatment of the subject but simply some verses which may help in the study of it.

Bible readings from the NIV, used with permission.

MARK 7:13 (Not strictly about baptism but a general principle.)

[13] Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

1PETER 3:20 and following

1 Pt 3 [20] who disobeyed long ago when 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, [21] and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1CORINTHIANS 10:2 (“Paul says they were ‘*baptised into Moses*’, using them as an example for those who are delivered from Satan and ‘*baptised into Christ*’ (**Galatians 3:27**)”).

1 Cor. 10 [2] They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. [3] They all ate the same spiritual food [4] and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. [5] Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

Gal 3 [27] for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

“In the apostolic writings, baptism is the momentary submerging of the whole body in water (MATTHEW 3:16; JOHN 3:23; ACTS 8:38**).”**

Mt 3 [16] As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. [17] And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Jn 3 [23] Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

Acts 8 [38] And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. [39] When they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

“They were to do this in two steps – first, by immersing them; second, by teaching them to live in the way Jesus had instructed (MATTHEW 28:19f).”
ACTS 2:38

Mt 28 [19] 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, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 2 [38] Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” [40] With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” [41] Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

“Baptism was an integral element in ‘obeying the gospel’ (2 THESS. 1:8).”

[8] He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

“John the Baptist said it was ‘for the forgiveness of sins’ (MARK 1:4).”

Mk 1 [4] And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

“On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told his hearers: ‘*Repent and be immersed, every one of you... so that your sins may be forgiven*’ (literally, ‘for’ or ‘into’ the forgiveness of sins; **ACTS 2:38.” [above]**

ACTS 22:16 [16] And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

HEBREWS 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

HEBREWS 6:1-2 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,[and of faith in God, [2] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

1PETER 3:21 [21] and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

“If we have been buried with him, we are also raised with him – to new life and a new lifestyle (ROMANS 6:4)” [4] We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [5] If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

“His cousin John was horrified to see Jesus standing in the line of people waiting to wash their sins away in the river. For Jesus it was both unnecessary and inappropriate. He had no sins to be confessed and forgiven. Jesus silenced his objections by saying that for him baptism would be an act of righteousness, the right thing to do, something his Father had told him to do. This was confirmed by a loud voice from the sky (which many thought was just thunder), saying: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’ (MATTHEW 3:17)”

“Significantly, he referred to his death as a baptism: ‘I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed’ (LUKE 12:50).”

“Baptism is at the centre of this. It is supremely an act of identification with Jesus (read **ROMANS 6** again, but this time verses **1-14**). We are baptised ‘into’ Christ. Just as we put on different (dry) clothes after being immersed, so we have ‘put on’ and been ‘clothed with’ Christ (**GALATIANS 3:27**).

Rom [6:1] What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? [2] By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? [3] Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [5] If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. [6] For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— [7] because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. [8] Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. [9] For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. [10] The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. [11] In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. [14] For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Gal 3 [27] for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

“In fact it now meant so much more that those who had only had John’s baptism were re-baptised. Though the outward form was identical (immersion in water), the words used were quite different. They were now baptised *‘into the **name of the Lord Jesus**’ (ACTS 19:3-5).*” [3] So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John's baptism,” they replied. [4] Paul said, “John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” [5] On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

GALATIANS 3:26-29. [26] You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, [27] for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.[28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

[David Pawson speaks of the need for only one baptism...] “All these distortions are dealt with by Jesus’ correction of Peter’s thinking when, having refused to have his feet washed, he then demanded that he be washed all over: *‘A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean’ (JOHN 13:10).*” [10] Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”

“There is no direction in the New Testament, either explicit or implicit, that baptism should be administered in public. On a number of occasions, it is doubtful if there were many, or even any, spectators (**ACTS 8:36; 9:18; 16:33**). Nor is there any evidence that the church had to be gathered for the occasion, though no doubt they did when they could – and there are obvious reasons why this is desirable, even though it is not essential.”

Acts 8 [36] As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?”

Acts 9 [18] Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Acts 16 [33] At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

“It can be anywhere there is sufficient water (JOHN 3:23). Provided it is done to a penitent believer in the name of Jesus, the baptism is fully valid.”

Jn 3 [23] Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

“Whole households were only baptised when every member (including all relatives and slaves) responded to the preaching in faith (**ACTS 16:33f; 18:8**).”

Acts 16 [33] At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. [34] The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Acts 18 [8] Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

“**GALATIANS 3:28**; note the context of baptism”. [26] You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, [27] for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6 [4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism; [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

“*For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body... and were all given one Spirit to drink*’ (**1 CORINTHIANS 12:13**.)

“The language (in the New Testament) about baptism is instrumental rather than symbolic. It is *for* the forgiveness of sins, it *is* a washing of regeneration, it *is* a burial and resurrection with Christ (**ACTS 2:28; TITUS 3:5; ROMANS 6:3f**). Saul, later Paul, was told to delay his baptism no longer but get into the water and have his sins washed away (**ACTS 22:16**).”

“The apostles never hesitated to ascribe ‘saving’ effects to baptism. The words ‘Baptism saves you now’ comes from the pen of Peter (**1 PETER 3:21**). Baptism brings forgiveness of sins (**ACTS 2:38**), washing them away (**ACTS 22:16**). Baptism frees from sin (**ROMANS 6:4-7**), cleanses the church (**EPHESIANS 5:26**), buries and raises with Christ (**COLOSSIANS 2:12**) and enables us to draw near to God (**HEBREWS 10:22**) It is the bath of regeneration, the washing of rebirth (**TITUS 3:5**).”

Titus 3 [5] he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. [8] This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those

who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

“It was he (the apostles’ Master) who said: ‘*Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved*’ (MARK 16:16; he adds that not believing is enough to be condemned – implying that baptism without faith cannot save).”

“We come to Christ his way or not at all. It was he who decided that every disciple should be baptised (MATTHEW 28:19).”

Matthew 28 [19] 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, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

ACTS 22:16 [16] **And now what are you waiting for?** Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

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