

## 27 Baptism - Principles

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Think how water played a part in the salvation of these men:

Noah

Moses and the people of Israel

Naaman



Did they need to do something in order to be saved?

Did they save themselves?



Why are these incidents important when we are thinking about baptism? Look at 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 and 1 Peter 3:18-22

### What does it mean?

The word baptism is taken straight from the Greek 'baptizo', which means dipping or washing by immersion. Look at Mark 7:2-4.

The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (bapto) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

*From the OnLine Bible - a note on the words 'bapto', meaning to dip temporarily (Luke 16:24, John 13:26, Revelation 19:13) and 'baptizo' meaning to soak.*

## Baptism is ...

... a public act of repentance for the remission of sins



Look at Luke 3:3

In Acts 19:1-5, why did John's disciples need to be baptised again into Jesus?

... an act of faith in and association with the death and resurrection of Jesus

Romans 6:1-4

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. What has baptism to do with this?

... a rebirth

John 3:1-5

How is baptism a "rebirth"?

... the answer, or pledge, of a good conscience towards God



1 Peter 3:18-22

What did Peter mean by this? Think of Peter's own experience at Jesus' trial.

## In practice

The apostles baptised - Acts 2:37-41. Why did people want to be baptised?

Jesus was baptised - Matthew 3:13-17. Why did Jesus insist on being baptised?

*Why does God ask us to be baptised?*