

## Scriptures discussing the gospel plan of salvation

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- The Bible is God's Word
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is God-breathed; useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness
    - Teaching
      - Acts 8:30-35
        - Ethiopian eunuch reading from Isaiah 53 (vs 32, 33)
        - Philip taught him from this passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus (vs 35)
      - Luke 24:13-35
        - Vs 27 – Jesus teaches these 2 all the Scriptures concerning Himself from Moses to all the prophets
      - John 20:10-18
        - Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene after His resurrection (vs 14)
        - When Mary realized she was speaking with Jesus, she calls Him “Rabboni” which means teacher (vs 16)
      - Romans 15:4
        - Everything written in the past (Old Testament) was written to teach us (vs 4)
    - Rebuking
      - Sharp criticism
      - Galatians 2:11-18
        - Paul opposed Peter to his face (rebuked) – vs 11. Why?
        - Peter was eating with Gentiles until Jews showed up (vs 12)
        - The Holy Spirit through Paul calls this hypocrisy (vs 13)
          - Hypocrisy spoken against in Romans 2:17-24
        - Peter was not acting in line with the truth of gospel (vs 14)
        - Paul had sharp words for Peter (vs 14-18)
        - Vs 14 is clarified by vs 15
          - In the context, Jew = righteous, Gentile = sinner (vs 15)
        - Peter was trying to make a distinction between Jews and Gentiles here
        - Paul says this is wrong (vs 15-18)
          - All Jews and Gentiles follow new law of Christ
          - Not old law
          - There is now no distinction between Jews and Gentiles
        - Peter should have known better (Acts 10 & 11, he was involved with the conversion of Cornelius & his household)
    - Correction

- More of a gentle rebuke
  - Galatians 6:1
    - If someone is caught up in sin, restore him **gently** (vs 1)
  - Training in righteousness
    - Acts 18:24-28 (Apollos)
      - Apollos was a learned man (vs 24)
      - At this time, he knew only the baptism of John though (vs 25)
      - Priscilla and Aquila taught him more adequately (vs 26)
        - Trained him in righteousness
      - Apollos went on to have a huge impact on church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1)
      - It is possible that Apollos wrote the book of Hebrews
- 2 Peter 1:3-4, 20-21
  - God has given us **everything** needed for life and godliness (vs 3)
  - God has given us **everything** needed to participate in divine nature and escape corruption (vs 4)
  - No Scripture came from man (vs 20, 21)
  - Men spoke from God as directed by the Holy Spirit (vs 21)
- 2 Peter 3:15
  - Paul wrote with wisdom from **God** (vs 15)
- Hebrews 1:1-2
  - God spoke through prophets in Old Testament (vs 1)
  - God has spoken to us now by His Son (vs 2)
- Hebrews 4:12
  - For the **word of God** is living and active... (vs 12)
- Acts 1:16
  - The Holy Spirit spoke through men who wrote the scriptures (vs 16)
    - David in this case (Psalm 69:25, Psalm 109:8)
- All of these Scriptures prove that the Bible is from God
- God's Word is truth
  - Titus 1:2
    - God does not lie (vs 2)
  - John 16:13
    - 2 Peter 1 proves that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible
    - Here, we're told that the Holy Spirit guides into all truth (vs 13)
    - Therefore, Bible = all truth
  - John 17:14-17
    - Jesus is praying to the Father here (17:1)
    - Your Word is truth (vs 17)
- So, we've established that the Bible is from God and is truth
  - But there is an Old Testament and a New Testament

- Which contains the words of salvation?
- The New Testament contains the law of Christ which we live by today
  - Romans 7:1-6
    - The law = Old Testament (Judaism)
    - New way of Spirit = new law of Christ = New Testament (Christianity)
    - Paul compares this to a marriage
      - Married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive (vs 2)
      - If he dies, woman is released (vs 2)
      - In this example, mankind = woman, the law in effect = husband
        - Mankind died to the law (Old Testament) through Christ that we may belong to Christ (New Testament) (vs 4)
        - Vs 6 – released from Old Testament to follow New Testament
  - Romans 10:4
    - Christ is the end of the law (Old Testament) (vs 4)
  - Galatians 2:15-16
    - Justification comes from faith in Jesus (New Testament), not by observing the law (Old Testament) (vs 16)
  - Galatians 3:23-25
    - The law (Old Testament) held mankind as prisoners until the new law of Christ came (vs 23)
  - Colossians 2:14
    - Jesus nailed the old law to the cross (vs 14)
  - 2 Corinthians 3:6
    - We live by the new covenant (New Testament), not the letter (Old Testament) (vs 6)
  - Hebrews 7:11-12
    - Perfection could not have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (Old Testament) (vs 11)
    - New priesthood = new law (New Testament) (vs 12)
  - Hebrews 9:15-18
    - Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant (vs 15) – New Testament
    - Jesus set us free from the first covenant (vs 15) – Old Testament
    - This is compared to a will
      - The new covenant was put into effect at Jesus' death (vs 16-18)
  - Hebrews 10:9
    - Christ set aside the first law (old law) to establish the second (new law) (vs 9)
  - The Old Testament is not lived by today, but it is still useful
    - Hebrews 10:1
      - The law (Old Testament) is a shadow of things to come (New Testament) (vs 1)
    - Matthew 5:17

- Jesus did not come to abolish the old law, but to fulfill it (vs 17)
    - The Old Testament pointed to Christ
  - Romans 15:4
    - Old Testament is used to teach us (vs 4)
  - 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
    - These Old Testament stories are examples and warnings for us today (vs 6, 11)
- Mankind's opinion on things related to God's plan of salvation mean nothing. Only the direction from God's Word matters.
  - Proverbs 14:12
    - **Man's** way leads to death (vs 12)
  - Ephesians 3:11
    - It is **God's** eternal purpose (not man's) – accomplished in Jesus Christ (vs 11)
  - James 1:21
    - What saves us? The word (vs 21)
  - Galatians 1:6-9
    - Only the gospel of Christ leads to salvation (vs 6-9)
    - Any other gospel = eternal condemnation (vs 9)
  - John 6:68
    - Jesus has the words of life (vs 68)
  - 2 Peter 3:14-18
    - God is patient with us (vs 15)
    - Paul wrote with wisdom God gave him (vs 15)
    - Paul's letters contain hard to understand topics (vs 16)
      - Romans is a very difficult book to understand for example
    - Ignorant and unstable people distort Paul's writings – **to their own destruction** (vs 16)
      - No mention here of whether they do it on purpose or by accident with good intentions – it does not matter either way. **Distorting Scriptures for any reason leads to destruction.**
    - Be on your guard against people like this (vs 17)
  - Acts 26:9, 22-23
    - Paul was convinced that he had to oppose Jesus (vs 9)
      - Paul strongly persecuted the church (Acts 8:1-3)
    - But he changed his message – began preaching the gospel of Christ (vs 22-23)
  - 1 Corinthians 4:4
    - Paul's conscience was clear at this point – but only God's judgment matters (vs 4)
      - We can be clear in our own conscience as well, but if it is based on distorted understanding of the Scriptures, then it will lead to destruction (2 Peter 3:16). Only God's judgment matters.

- Matthew 7:21-23
  - Many people will think they served a righteous life, but will be told from Jesus “I never knew you...” (vs 21-23)
  - **Only the person who does the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven** (vs 21)
- Acts 5:27-32
  - We must obey **God** rather than men (vs 29)
- Luke 6:46
  - Servants of Jesus do what **He** says (vs 46)
- Romans 14
  - This chapter is discussing a difference in opinion of **disputable matters** (vs 1)
    - The example used here is eating everything vs eating only vegetables (vs 2)
    - Notice this is a matter of opinion – a disputable matter (vs 3)
    - As long as you don’t bind your opinion on someone else, God will accept you if you stay true to your conscience and if it is not in violation of God’s law (vs 3)
  - **God’s plan of salvation is not a disputable matter** (Luke 6:46)
    - Salvation is **God’s** gift to give (Ephesians 2:8) – therefore, we must follow **His** plan
    - If even Jesus submitted to God’s will, we must do so as well (Luke 22:42)
    - Notice in vs 10 – we will all stand before **God’s** judgment seat
- These passages prove that man cannot come up with our own plan of salvation. Therefore, we need to follow God’s.
- Mankind needs justification from sin in the form of a Savior
  - Ephesians 2:1-10
    - When following the ways of the world, we were dead in our transgressions (vs 1,2)
      - Satan referenced here (vs 2)
    - All lived like this at one point (vs 3)
    - In this state, we were objects of wrath **by nature** (vs 3)
    - God made us alive through Christ due to His love and mercy (vs 4,5)
    - Saved by God’s grace alone (vs 5, 8-9)
    - Salvation is a gift from God, not earned by works (vs 8-9)
      - Further evidence that man’s opinion on God’s plan of salvation does not matter
    - We are God’s workmanship – created for good works (vs 10)
      - God created us to do good work upon earth
      - Though the work that we do does not save us (God’s grace does – vs 8-9), that does not mean we are exempt from doing good (Galatians 6:9-10)

- The idea that baptism = work, and work does not lead to salvation, therefore baptism is not necessary for salvation is flawed logic and a misunderstanding of this Scripture
        - Assuming this idea is true (it is not – but for argument sake, let's assume it is)
        - John 6:29 – belief is a work
          - According to this idea, belief is not required either since belief is a work
- Romans 5:6-11
  - Christ died for the ungodly when mankind was powerless (vs 6)
  - This is 1 way God demonstrates His love for us (vs 8)
  - Justified by Christ's blood (vs 9)
  - Saved from God's wrath by Christ (vs 9)
  - Christ provides reconciliation to God (vs 11)
- Romans 3:22-24
  - In the context here, the Jews and Gentiles were being discussed
  - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (vs 23)
  - Justified freely by the grace through Christ (vs 24)
- Romans 6:23
  - Wages of sin is death (vs 23)
  - Gift of God is eternal life (vs 23)
- 1 John 1:8-10
  - If we claim we have no sin, we are a liar (vs 8, 10)
  - If we confess our sins, He will forgive (vs 9)
- Hebrews 10:11-14
  - Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sins, though they were made repeatedly (vs 11)
  - Christ made 1 sacrifice for all sin (vs 12-14)
- From all these passages, it is clear that mankind needed justification and Christ is that justification.
- As a result of this, only those in Christ will be saved
  - Acts 4:8-12
    - Christ is the **only** way that we can be saved (vs 10, 12)
  - John 14:6
    - Jesus is the **only** way to the Father (vs 6)
  - 2 Timothy 2:10
    - Salvation is in Christ Jesus (vs 10)
  - Revelation 5
    - Jesus is the sacrificial lamb slain for our sins (vs 9, 10, 12)
  - Hebrews 7:25
    - Jesus saves (vs 25)
  - Matthew 1:21

- Jesus will save His people from their sins (vs 21)
  - Notice – only **His** people though
- So how do we get into Christ and be saved? God’s plan of salvation as outlined by Scripture
  - 2 Peter 3:9
    - God wants no one to perish (vs 9)
  - John 3:16
    - God gave His Son to save world (vs 16)
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
    - Grace saves us (vs 8)
    - Salvation is the gift of God (vs 8)
    - Not by man’s works (vs 9)
    - Does this mean we are exempt from working for the Lord? NO
      - Vs 10 – we are His workmanship, created to do good works
      - Matthew 25:14-30
        - The ones who gained more talents (which would obviously require work) were rewarded (vs 19-23)
        - The one who did nothing with his talent – buried it (did no work for the Lord) was condemned (vs 24-30)
      - Ephesians 4:7
        - Christ determines who gets God’s grace (vs 7)
        - Therefore, we must obey Christ to receive God’s grace (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - 2 Kings 5:1-14
    - Naaman had leprosy (vs 1)
    - Sought the help of Elisha to cure him of his leprosy (vs 3-4, 9)
    - Elisha instructed Naaman to wash himself 7 times in the Jordan River to be healed of his leprosy (vs 10)
    - Naaman was reluctant of this instruction (vs 11-12)
      - He thought he would be healed by the waving of Elisha’s hand or washing in another body of water in Israel
    - Vs 13 – Naaman’s servants wisely told him that if Elisha had requested for him to do some great thing, he would have done it
    - Vs 14 – based on this logic, Naaman consents to Elisha’s instruction (from God) and was healed of his leprosy
    - Would Naaman have been healed if he would have washed in another body of water as he suggested in vs 12?
      - No – because Elisha (this direction ultimately from God – Elisha was a prophet of God) told him to wash in the Jordan
      - Similarly for us, we must follow God’s plan exactly as He has laid out for us to heal us of our spiritual leprosy (sin)
      - God’s plan is simple and easy to follow, why not do so?

- Step 1: Hearing the Word
  - Romans 10:13-17
    - Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved (vs 13)
      - Call on the name of the Lord = obedience (Acts 22:14-16)
    - To call on the name of the Lord – must hear and believe (vs 14)
      - Must also be baptized (Acts 22:16)
    - Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ (vs 17)
  - It is important to note that hearing alone is not enough to be saved
    - Romans 2:13
      - Must obey once you have heard (vs 13)
- Step 2: Believing the Word
  - Romans 10:9
    - Belief that Jesus was raised from the dead is required for salvation (vs 9)
  - Acts 16:11-34
    - Story of Philippian jailer
    - Asks Paul & Silas – “What must I do to be saved?” (vs 30)
    - Belief in Jesus is required to be saved (vs 31)
      - Notice – the jailer and his family were baptized as well (vs 33-34)
      - Vs 33 – 34 imply that those who believe will be baptized (more on this topic to be discussed in the baptism section)
  - Mark 16:16
    - Belief is required for salvation (vs 16)
  - John 3:16-18
    - Belief is required for salvation (vs 16, 18)
  - John 3:36
    - Belief = obedience to Christ (vs 36)
  - John 6:29
    - Belief is a work (vs 29)
  - John 11:25
    - Belief is required for salvation (vs 25)
  - Romans 3:22-24
    - Righteousness from God comes by belief (vs 22)
  - Hebrews 11:6
    - Must believe before you can come to God (vs 6)
  - It is important to note that believing alone is not enough to be saved
    - Mark 16:16 & Acts 19:1-3
      - Both of these passages equate belief and baptism as both requirements for salvation
    - Romans 10:9



- Equates belief and confession as both requirements for salvation
    - Therefore, belief = confession = baptism = necessary for salvation
    - James 2:19, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 19:13-16, Mark 3:11, 5:1-13
      - All of these passages indicate that demons believe and confess that Jesus is Lord, but they are not saved
  - It is also important to note that the belief that leads to salvation is not merely mental assent. The belief that leads to salvation demands obedience. A true believer is an obedient servant. If you just have mere mental assent and no obedience to God's commands, you are not a true believer.
    - John 3:36, Romans 1:5, Romans 16:26, James 2:14-26, Matthew 7:21-23, Acts 8, Acts 16, Acts 19, Galatians 5:6
- Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord
  - Romans 10:8-10
    - Confession is required for salvation (vs 9, 10)
  - 1 John 1:9
    - Confess your sins, and you will be forgiven (vs 9)
  - Matthew 10:32-33
    - Acknowledge Jesus, He will acknowledge you before the Father (vs 32)
    - Disown Jesus, He will disown you before the Father (vs 33)
  - It is important to note that confession alone is not enough to be saved
    - Romans 10:9
      - Equates belief and confession as both requirements for salvation
    - Therefore, belief = confession (= baptism from proof above) = necessary for salvation
- Step 4: Repentance of sins
  - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
  - Acts 2:37-39
    - Repentance necessary for salvation (vs 38)
    - Gift of the Holy Spirit
      - Ephesians 1:13-14 – Holy Spirit provides us with a seal, a deposit guaranteeing salvation
      - Romans 8:11 – if Holy Spirit lives in you, you will be saved
  - Luke 5:32
    - Jesus called sinners for repentance (vs 32)
  - Luke 13:3
    - Without repentance, you will perish (vs 3)
  - 2 Corinthians 7:8-11
    - Godly sorrow leads to repentance (vs 10)

- Repentance leads to salvation (vs 10)
  - Worldly sorrow without repentance leads to death (vs 10)
- Luke 15
  - In 3 parables, we're told that God rejoices over repented sinners
- Acts 26:20
  - Repentance = turning to God (vs 20)
  - Leads to changed actions (vs 20)
- Did Peter repent after denying Jesus? YES
  - John 21:15-17
    - Jesus tells Peter to get back to work
    - Peter plays a major role in the book of Acts
    - Wrote 1 & 2 Peter
- Did Judas repent after betraying Jesus? NO. Could he have? YES
  - Matthew 27:1-5 & Acts 1:18-19
    - Judas is an example of having worldly sorrow without repentance mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 (Matthew 27:3)
    - He had the same option to repent as Peter did. With Peter's sorrow – he repented and became a valuable asset to the early church. With Judas' sorrow – he chose to hang himself.
    - Matthew 27:1-5 indicates that Judas did not realize that the Sanhedrin was going to condemn Jesus to death. When he realized that death was the verdict – this is when he felt the worldly sorrow that did not lead to repentance.
- It is important to note that repentance alone is not enough for salvation
  - Acts 2:38
    - Equates both repentance and baptism as both requirements for salvation
  - Luke 3:8
    - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance (vs 8)
  - Therefore, repentance = baptism = producing fruit (living faithfully) (= belief = confession, both from proof above) = necessary for salvation
- Step 5: Baptism into Christ
  - There are 4 baptisms mentioned in the Bible: baptism with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11), baptism with fire (Matthew 3:11), John the Baptist's baptism (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1), baptism into Christ (Galatians 3:27)
  - Baptism: immerse or submerge
    - It is important to note that true baptism is only executed by immersion. Sprinkling, pouring water over head, etc. is not a true baptism according to Scriptures.
      - Ephesians 4:5 & 1 Corinthians 12:13
        - There is but 1 baptism

- Acts 8:39-40 – the eunuch was immersed
  - Matthew 3:16 – Jesus was immersed
  - No Scriptural evidence that any baptism was carried out by sprinkling or pouring, but the above Scriptures mention immersion
  - Since there is but 1 baptism, we must conclude that immersion is the only true way to baptize
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11-12)
  - Jesus performed this (vs 11)
  - John 14:15-27
    - Jesus will ask the Father and He will send the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples (vs 16)
    - Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name (vs 26)
  - Acts 2:1-4
    - Holy Spirit comes to the disciples at Pentecost
    - They were **filled** with the Holy Spirit (vs 4)
      - Filled = immersed = submerged = baptized with Holy Spirit
- Baptism with fire (Matthew 3:11-12)
  - Performed by Jesus (vs 11)
  - Vs 12 indicates that this is related to the final judgment
  - By definition, this means to be immersed/submerged in fire
  - John 5:26-29
    - Jesus is the judge (vs 27)
  - Revelation 20:14-15
    - Lake of fire (vs14-15) – this is what will immerse with fire
  - Baptism with fire is eternal condemnation
- John's baptism (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1)
  - Was it from God? YES
    - John 1:6-9
      - John sent from God (vs 6) as a witness to the light (vs 7,8)
    - John 1:33
      - John was sent by God to baptize with water (vs 33)
    - Mark 1:2-3
      - Malachi and Isaiah prophesied about John
      - "I will send my messenger" (vs 2)
    - Luke 3:1-3
      - The Word of God came to John (vs 2)
  - Purpose of John's baptism
    - Luke 3:3

- Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (vs 3)
  - John 1:26
    - Baptism with water (vs 26)
  - John 1:31
    - To reveal Jesus to Israel (vs 31)
  - Mark 1:4
    - Baptism for repentance of sins (vs 4)
  - Matthew 3:11
    - Baptism with water for repentance (vs 11)
  - Acts 19:4
    - Baptism of repentance for belief in Jesus
- Jesus was baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15)
  - Jesus was immersed (“went up out of the water”) – Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10
  - Can we fulfill all righteousness without baptism?
    - Jesus says no (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10)
    - Romans 3:7-8 – those who live an unrighteous life will not be saved
- Baptism into Christ
  - Galatians 3:27
    - All who are baptized are baptized into Christ – clothe yourself with Christ (vs 27)
  - Matthew 28:19-20
    - How to make disciples? Baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (vs 19)
    - Obey all commands (vs 20)
  - Mark 16:15-16
    - If you are baptized, you are saved. No baptism = condemnation (vs 16)
  - John 3:5
    - Only those who are born of water and the Spirit will enter the kingdom of God (vs 5)
      - Water symbolizes baptism (1 Peter 3:21)
  - John 3:22-4:2
    - Jesus and His disciples were baptizing (vs 3:22, 26, 4:1, 2)
    - If baptism isn’t necessary, why would Jesus be baptized and baptize?
  - Acts 19:1-7
    - Paul asks: Did you receive the Holy Spirit at belief? (vs 2)
    - Answer to Paul’s question: No (vs 2)
    - Paul then asks: What baptism did you receive? (vs 3)

- Paul here equates belief with baptism. IE – this passage indicates that all believers are baptized
    - Acts 16:11-34 indicates this as well (discussed below)
    - John 3:36 indicates that true belief requires obedience (discussed previously)
  - Answer to Paul’s question: John’s baptism (vs 3)
  - Paul explains John’s baptism (vs 4)
  - They were baptized again – this time into Jesus Christ & they received the Holy Spirit at that time (vs 5-7)
  - From this passage, we learn: the Holy Spirit comes at baptism into Christ. Not at John’s baptism, nor at belief.
    - Acts 2:38 indicates this as well (discussed below)
- Acts 2:38
  - Baptism into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins leads to the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs 38)
  - Ephesians 1:13-14 & Romans 8:11
    - The Holy Spirit provides us with a seal (Ephesians). God sees this and saves us (Romans).
- Acts 16:11-34
  - Vs 11-17
    - Lydia was a worshipper of God (vs 14)
    - Not a believer before baptism though (vs 15)
    - Lydia and her household were baptized (vs 15)
    - This is the point when Paul and his companions considered her a believer (vs 15)
    - Further proof that all believers are baptized (Acts 19:1-7 as discussed above)
  - Vs 16-34
    - Vs 31 – belief is necessary for salvation
    - Vs 33 – upon belief & listening to Paul’s and Silas’ teaching, the jailer and his household were baptized
    - Vs 34 – after baptism, he and his whole family became believers of God
- Acts 8:26-40
  - Philip the evangelist (Acts 6, 21) met an Ethiopian eunuch (vs 27)
  - Philip taught the eunuch about Isaiah’s prophecy of Jesus (vs 35)
  - This teaching included baptism because the eunuch saw water and requested to be baptized (vs 36-37)

- The eunuch went into water and came out = immersion (vs 38-39)
- Acts 10
  - Peter teaches Cornelius and his household about Jesus (vs 34-43)
  - Vs 46-48: Peter **ordered** them to be baptized
    - This was not a suggestion, it was an order. This passage indicates that baptism is not optional.
- Acts 9:17-19
  - Paul was baptized to be filled with this Holy Spirit (vs 17-18)
  - This was before he even ate (vs 19)
- Acts 22:16
  - Paul was told to be baptized – calling on His name (vs 16)
  - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)
- Romans 6:1-11
  - Those baptized into Jesus were baptized into His death (vs 3)
  - We were buried with Him through baptism so that we live a new life (vs 4)
  - If we were united with Him in His death, we will be resurrected with Him too (vs 5)
  - Our old self died (slave to sin), our new self is resurrected (free from sin) (vs 6-11)
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
  - Noah & family were saved through water (vs 20)
  - This water = baptism = saves us also (vs 21)
  - Baptism saves by the resurrection of Christ (vs 21)
- Colossians 2:9-12
  - Baptism is equated to the circumcision done by Christ (vs 11-12)
  - Through baptism we were buried with him and raised with him (vs 12)
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
  - All members of the body of Christ (the church – Ephesians 1:22-23) are baptized (vs 13)
- Titus 3:5
  - We are saved by baptism (vs 5)
- It is important to note that baptism is not the final step. One can simply not be baptized (this implies that one has completed all the previous steps as well – hearing, belief, confession, repentance) and then go back to living a worldly life and expect to keep their salvation. The person who is baptized must remain faithful as discussed next.

- Step 6: Live faithfully
  - Matthew 7:15-20
    - We must produce good fruit, lest we be condemned (vs 19)
  - Luke 3:8
    - While producing fruit, we need to keep with repentance (vs 8)
  - 1 John 1:5-7
    - We must walk in the light to receive purification from sin (vs 7)
  - James 2:14-24
    - We show our faith by doing God's work (vs 24)
  - Revelation 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26-29, 3:5, 12-13, 21
    - To those who live life faithfully, Christ will reward
- These are the steps to salvation as outlined by the Bible. It is important to note that all of these steps are mentioned as prerequisites for salvation. Therefore, all must be done. Nothing less will lead to salvation.
- At this point, it is important to note that it is possible to complete the first 5 steps discussed above and then fall away.
  - Hebrews 6:4-6
    - It is possible to be in a saved state and then fall away (vs 6)
  - Hebrews 10:26-27
    - Once in a saved state, you can fall away by deliberately continuing to live a sinful life (vs 26-27)
  - 2 Peter 2:20-22
    - For those who have escaped the corruption of the world and go back to a sinful life (vs 20), they are like a dog returning to its vomit and a pig going back to the mud after it has been washed (vs 22)
- Message of gospel = Jesus saves (Romans 1:16)
  - To reap the rewards of this salvation, we must have complete obedience
    - Matthew 28:18-20
      - Discipleship involves obeying everything Jesus commands (vs 20)
    - Matthew 19:16-24
      - The rich young ruler would be considered a good moral man today
        - Did not murder, commit adultery, steal, nor lie. Honored parents, loved neighbors (vs 19-20)
      - But he was not in a saved state because he would not part with his wealth (vs 21-22)
      - This proves that discipleship requires complete obedience (Matthew 28:20)
    - John 14:15, 23
      - Those who love Jesus will obey Him (vs 15, 23)
    - Romans 12:1-2
      - Submission to God is reasonable (vs 1)

- James 2:10-11
        - Guilty of breaking 1 command – guilty of breaking the entire law (vs 10)
- It is necessary to discuss 3 final thoughts
  - Children are blameless
    - Matthew 18:1-6
      - Unless we become like children, we will not enter heaven (vs 4)
      - Therefore, children are saved. Why?
        - Isaiah 7:15-16
          - There is a time in a child's life when he/she does not know right from wrong
        - Numbers 14:29, 32:11
          - Those less than 20 years old were not punished for Israel's sin in the wilderness
        - Not saying that 20 years is the age for everyone today.
        - At some point in our lives though, we become accountable for our sins because we truly learn right from wrong. When we reach that point and choose to do wrong – we are held accountable for that (Matthew 12:36-37).
  - Ignorance of God's plan of salvation is no excuse
    - Acts 17:30-31
      - At the time we become accountable, it is our responsibility to learn God's will and execute it.
  - Thief on the cross (Luke 23:40-43)
    - Thief on the cross was saved (vs 43)
    - Obviously, he believed Jesus (vs 42)
    - No indication on whether or not he was baptized
      - He could have very easily been baptized by John (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1)
    - Jesus performed this – He is the judge (John 5:26-29)
    - The old law of Moses was still in effect at this time (Hebrews 9:16-18)
    - We are now under the new law (Romans 7:1-6)
      - This took effect at Jesus' death (Hebrews 9:16-18)
      - And we are judged by the new law (Romans 2:2, 6-12, 16)
      - The new law outlines the plan of salvation discussed in this document. By this we are judged.
    - Belief and confession alone do not save today (see proof discussed earlier in this document)