

Series: Baptism - What Does the Bible Really Teach?
“Water Baptism After Paul” - Part 2

Introduction:

1. Peter was asked by a group of Jews, "What shall we do?"
 - Peter responded that they should repent, and be baptized in water in order to receive remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Acts 2:37-38**
2. Paul was asked by a man, "...what must I do to be saved?"
 - Paul responded, "...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."
Acts 16:31
3. Obviously these are two different answers. Water baptism was an essential part of Peter's message, yet Paul said he could preach his gospel without it.
1 Corinthians 1:17
4. The same Christ that gave to Peter the gospel of the circumcision while on earth, appeared to Paul from heaven and gave to him the gospel of the uncircumcision.
Galatians 2:7-8
5. We learned last week that Paul was not one of the twelve apostles, but received a special commission by direct revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven.
 - To Paul was revealed the mystery of the body of Christ and the dispensation of grace that we live in today.
6. Do we see water baptism associated at all with Paul's distinct message and ministry? What role did it play in Paul's ministry? Let's do a Biblical overview of Paul's ministry and get answers to these questions.

Paul's baptism at salvation

1. After Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and Paul believed, Christ instructed Paul to go into Damascus and wait for instruction. **Acts 9:6**
2. In Damascus, Paul is ministered to by a man named Ananias. He lays hands on Paul, resulting in Paul having his eyesight restored, and Paul also receives the Holy Spirit. The Bible informs us that Paul arose and was baptized. **Acts 9:17-18**
3. In **Acts 22:16**, Paul reveals to us the words that Ananias told him that day. Up to this point, only the kingdom program that Peter preached had been revealed. Baptism was an essential part of this program and Ananias knew it.
4. As a Jewish believer, Paul was baptized as any other Jewish believer would have been at that time. Belief on Christ as the risen Messiah, repentance of sins, and water baptism all were a simultaneous event under the kingdom program.
5. This was all done to prepare themselves for their coming King and the kingdom He would bring with Him.

Paul's first missionary journey

1. Acts 13 and 14 record Paul's first missionary journey. Several years had lapsed since Paul's conversion. During those years Christ had appeared to Paul from heaven and revealed to him the gospel of grace that he was to preach to the heathen (Gentiles). **Galatians 1:11-12, 16-17**
2. During Paul's first missionary journey throughout the regions of Galatia, water baptism is never mentioned one time.

3. Paul's first sermon is recorded in **Acts 13:14-39**. Notice how he concludes it in verses 38-39. Paul preached justification by faith alone and there is no mention of baptism.
4. Many people trusted Christ during this first missionary journey, but there is no record of any baptisms at all. It says they preached the gospel, taught many, confirmed the souls of the disciples and ordained elders, but no mention of baptism. **Acts 14:21-23**
5. When Paul returns to his home church in Antioch, he told them how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. **Acts 14:27**

Paul's defense at the Jerusalem Council

1. In Acts 15, some of the Jewish believers were causing a stir among the Gentile converts, insisting that they must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved.
2. It ends up turning into a showdown at Jerusalem. The conclusion was that the Gentiles did not have to do these things.
3. But one command did come out of this meeting: the Gentile believers needed to be sensitive to the Jewish believers and not knowingly offend them. **Acts 15:19-21**
4. This meeting apparently had a great impact on Paul because we see Paul doing things on his second missionary journey that he did not do on his first journey.

Paul's second missionary journey

1. Immediately we see Paul exercising a greater sensitivity to the Jews. He takes Timothy and has him circumcised. Paul knew that circumcision availed nothing (**Galatians 5:6**). Why did he do this? Because of sensitivity to the Jews. **Acts 16:3**
2. We also see Paul shaving his head due to a Jewish vow he had taken. Why would Paul do such a thing? He knew he wasn't under the Old Testament law. He did it because of his sensitivity to the Jews. **Acts 18:18-21**
3. We also see Paul baptizing converts for the first time on this journey.
 - During the book of Acts, Paul's ministry involved taking the gospel of grace to the Jews first. There was obviously no synagogue in Philippi, so Paul goes to the riverside on the Sabbath day where Jews and Jewish proselytes had gathered.
 - He preached the gospel, and a lady named Lydia believed and was then baptized. **Acts 16:14-15**
 - When the Philippian jailor asked Paul how to be saved, Paul made it clear that it was by faith alone in Jesus Christ. But after the man was saved, he was baptized. **Acts 16:30-33**
 - The church at Corinth was birthed right next to the Jewish synagogue. It was a mixture of Jew and Gentile believers. Again, we see baptism following their faith in Christ. **Acts 18:8**
4. Paul is never seen **preaching** baptism. We do not see it mentioned in any of his messages. It clearly is not seen as part of his gospel, nor do we ever see him requiring it, but we do see it practiced and mentioned three times.
5. Paul also did not preach circumcision or Nazarite vows, but we see him doing these things. Why are none of these things mentioned on Paul's first journey, but they **are** mentioned on his second journey?

6. The Jerusalem Council made an impact on Paul, and he was passionate about wanting to reach his own Jewish people with the gospel. **Romans 10:1**