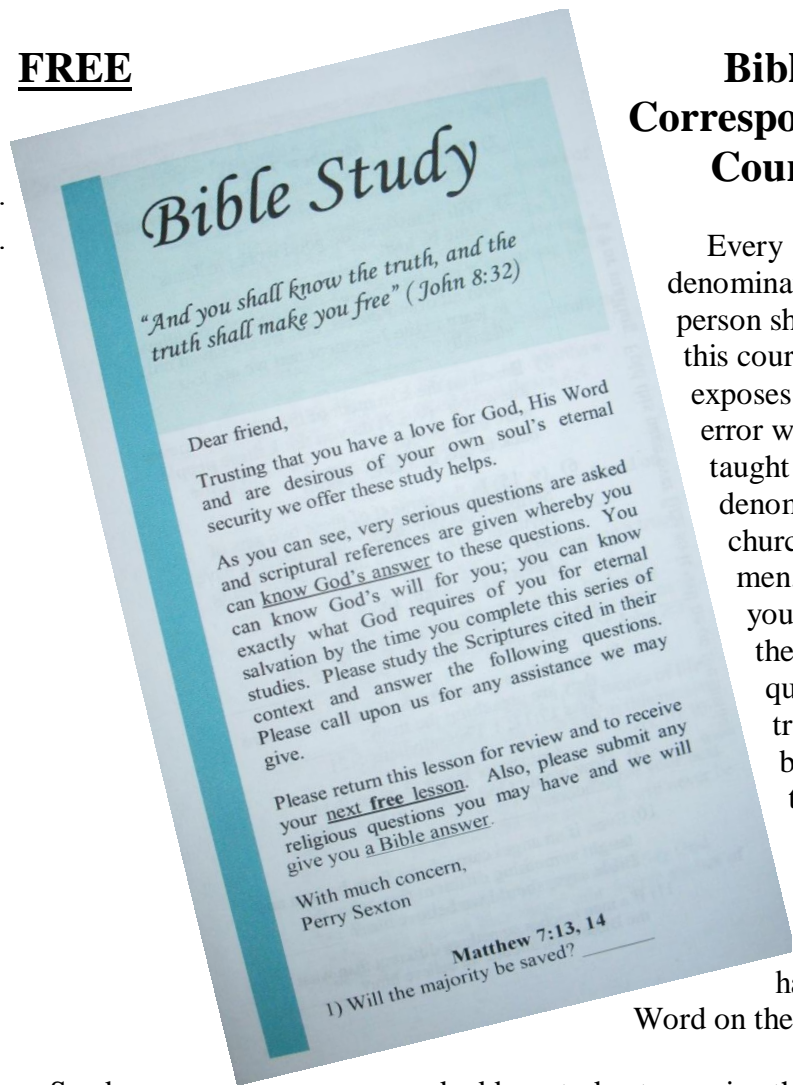


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### If One Is Saved Before Baptism, He Is Saved Without:

by Perry Sexton

It is very sad that so many reject God's Word on baptism and therefore reject God and their very own salvation (cp. John 12:48). Many teach that one is saved before baptism. If this is, true then the Bible is wrong for the Bible teaches one is saved at the very point of baptism. This will be clear by the following verses. If the Bible is wrong then the Father is wrong; the Son is wrong; the Holy Spirit is wrong for they gave us the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16,17, etc.). **Let us notice some of the consequences and dilemmas IF one is saved before baptism.**

#### If one is saved before baptism, he is saved without:

1. **Obeying the Savior** for the Savior said “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16), thus he is saved while in rebellion! See 1 Samuel 15:23. Jesus said “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15 cp. v.23,24). It is a very serious matter not to accept and obey the Word of God (cp. John 12:48; 2 John 9). Baptism is a command (Acts 10:48; Mark 16:16). Scriptural baptism is essential to salvation! Do you think it is possible to be saved without obeying the Savior? Please note: “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9).

2. ... **Receiving the forgiveness of sins**. In the Bible, baptism is always “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; Luke 3:3). Sins are “washed away” in scriptural baptism (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). The Romans were baptized (Romans 6:3,4) and thereby were “made free from sin” (v.17,18). How can one be saved from his sins while he is

yet in his sins? It is absurd! All must obey the gospel, being baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved from their sins.

3. ... **The blood of Christ**. The only way for the alien sinner to contact the blood of Christ is in scriptural baptism. Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:33,34). We are to be baptized into His death (Rom. 6:3). Jesus shed His blood “for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). We are to be baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and when we have done so Jesus has “washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5). Study this with Acts 22:16, “be baptized, and wash away thy sins.” Is it possible to be saved without contacting the blood of Jesus? If one denies baptism its proper place in God’s plan of redemption, he is denying the only means of contacting the blood of Christ. Baptism is not true baptism when one thinks he is saved before baptism. One cannot have a wrong understanding of these matters and be baptized right.

4. ... **Being born again** (John 3:3,5). When one is scripturally baptized, he is raised to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). This is how one is born again, this is the new birth. Consider also what Peter wrote: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit ...: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:22,23). The word of God teaches man to be baptized. In scriptural baptism, we contact the blood of Jesus thus washing our sins away. We are thus purified and are the children of God in the kingdom or church of Christ (please see all the above verses). Can one be saved without being born again? Baptism is the very point in God’s plan wherein one is born again. One cannot be taught wrong in these matters and baptized right.

5. ... **Entering INTO Christ**. The only way of entering “INTO” Christ is through scriptural baptism (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13,27,28) which so many are taught by the false teachers to reject (1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3). And the consequences of doing so are very great and eternal (Matt. 15:14; 7:21-23; John 12:48). Can one be saved without entering into the very place where salvation is? Could Noah and his family been saved from the flood without entering into the ark (cp. Gen. 6 and 7)?

6. ... **Being “in Christ”** and without being in **the true church** (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23-27). Please note all the things that are missing in one’s life when he is not “in Christ”: **Grace** is “in Christ” (2 Tim. 2:1); **Faith** is “in Christ” (2 Tim. 3:15); **Redemption** and **forgiveness of sins** are “in Christ” (Eph. 1:7); **Salvation** is only “in Christ” (2 Tim. 2:10). To sum up, **“all spiritual blessings”** are “in Christ” (Eph. 1:3) which include **prayer** and many other things. Of course, Christ’s blood is “in Him,” note: “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7). Is it possible to be saved without being in the one and only true church which is the kingdom of God? The church or kingdom is made up of the saved (Acts 2:47). This church/kingdom is the only institution that will be saved and delivered up to Heaven (Eph. 5:23-27,32; 1 Cor. 15:24). Did you notice baptism in that reading (see again Eph. 5:26)?

I have emphasized **scriptural baptism** because men teach various kinds of baptisms which are not from God and cannot save (Matt. 15:9,14; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 John 9, etc.). Please accept God’s Word on this matter and do not let evil or misguided men rob you of your eternal salvation. We admonish you, search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11) and prove for your own selves that these things are true. Be as those few 3,000 in Acts chapter two: “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

- ✓ Will you gladly accept God’s Word (Ibid.)?
- ✓ Do you desire the truth (John 8:32)?
- ✓ Will you obey God (Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21)?

Please let us know of your concerns. We are here to assist you in your salvation. ♥