

THE “FOR” IN ACTS 2:38.

3-30-2025 AM

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: Acts 2:38:

B. Regarding the text:

1. Are we saved before or after baptism?
2. Many believe that we are saved before obeying the gospel.
 - 1) Note the false assumption: “For the forgiveness of your sins might better be translated because of the forgiveness of sins. Baptism does not produce forgiveness and cleansing from sin.”
 - 2) In other words, one is to repent and be baptized “because” his sins have already been forgiven.
3. In order to become a member of a Baptist church, one must first be saved. In order to be saved, one must repent of their sin and turn to Jesus Christ in faith, believing that He is the Son of God who died for their sins and was raised from the dead. Once a person is saved, they can then be baptized. Note **Acts 2:47** “the Lord added to the church...”

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMAND (ACTS 2:37).

A. It is important for us to consider that we are talking about the baptism that Christ commands in **Matthew 28:18-20** and **Mark 16:15-16**.

1. “Repentance and remission of sins was first preached in Jerusalem (**Luke 24:46-49**).
2. It was after Christ had died, was buried, and rose again that He commanded baptism. This is one reason why the “thief on the cross argument” cannot mean that one can be saved without baptism. Christ did not command baptism as part of salvation until after he had been resurrected. What did Jesus say about baptism?
 - 1) **Matthew 28:19-20** he said that was how He wanted His followers to make disciples.
 - 2) **Mark 16:16**, Jesus said that it is those who believe and are baptized that are saved. So, baptism is connected with salvation. Does baptism happen before a person is saved or after? Jesus said baptism happens before salvation.

B. Peter followed the Lord’s instructions (**Matthew 16:19; Luke 24:47-49**).

1. **Acts 2:37-38**.
 - 1) **Vs. 37** The question: “... what shall we do?”
 - 2) **Vs. 38** The answer: “... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”
 - 3) **BOTH** repentance and baptism precede the remission of sins. Can sins be forgiven before a person repents? No.
 - a. Also, a person is not forgiven before he is baptized.
 - b. Repentance and baptism are linked together.
 - 4) Many claim “for the remission of sins” means one has already been forgiven before and without baptism.
 - a. “**FOR**” in **Matthew 26:28** - Jesus says, “**For** this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed **for** many **for** the remission of sins.”
 - b. Did Jesus shed his blood because sins were already forgiven?
 - c. **Acts 2:38** shows that baptism happens before one’s sins are forgiven.

2. In **Acts 22:16**, Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - 1) **Acts 22:10** Jesus had appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. Jesus told Saul, “And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.”
 - 2) Ananias told Saul to “arise and be baptized” for what purpose? **TO** “wash away your sins.”
 - 3) Were Saul’s sins removed before or after baptism?
 - 4) **Revelation 1:5**.

II. IS ONE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM?

A. If so, that person has not been cleansed by the blood of Jesus!

1. **Romans 6:3-11** This passage teaches that when a person is baptized, he is baptized into the death of Christ. We are buried with Him and raised to walk with a new life (**Ephesians 4:24** “And that ye put on the new man...”)
- 1) Baptism comes before salvation. See also **Colossians 2:11-12** and **Galatians 3:27**.
2. **1 Peter 3:21** “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...” **NOTE**: Salvation happens after baptism.

B. One is saved when:

1. They hear the gospel (**Mark 16:15** the gospel is preached; **Romans 10:17**).
2. They believe the gospel (**Romans 1:16**; **Mark 16:16**).
3. They repent of sins (**Luke 13:3**; **Acts 2:38**; **2 Peter 3:9**).
4. They confess the name of Jesus (**Acts 8:36-38**; **Romans 10:9-10**; **1 John 4:15**).
5. They are baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**; **1 Corinthians 12:13**; **1 Peter 3:20-21**).
6. They stay saved by living a faithful life (**1 Corinthians 15:58**; **Matthew 25:21, 23**; **Revelation 2:10**).

III. CONCLUSION:

- A. God’s plan is the only plan that works.
- B. Lay aside the doctrines of men and follow Him (**Matthew 16:24**).