

## Salvation Study Summary

*This is a summary of some of the outcome of some of the key "findings" from a study on baptism and salvation carried out by a group of us from Crawley Church ([www.crawleychurch.org.uk](http://www.crawleychurch.org.uk)). Our intention was to challenge our beliefs about the "process" of salvation and the role of baptism by carrying out a detailed study of what the New Testament says on the subject. We read through the New Testament and gathered a list of all the passages that seemed relevant (we ended up with approx 300 passages ranging from a single verse to over a chapter) which we used these as the basis of our study and discussions. This summary lists / highlights a small subset of passages from that full list that we felt were the most relevant to the various points made below.*

*Our purpose is not to force anyone else to agree with our conclusions, but rather to be sure in ourselves that we are teaching what we believe the Bible teaches. However, we have made this available in case it is of any interest / use to anyone else.*

- Mark H ([www.delightinlight.com](http://www.delightinlight.com))

### HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY

#### Main Points

1. God can give salvation to anyone. He doesn't need us to do anything to "enable" Him to save us.
2. There is nothing that anyone can do to "earn" salvation.
3. God indicates that He *will* give salvation to those who genuinely come to Him in faith / belief.
4. If our belief (faith) and love are genuine, then they will be demonstrated in our willingness to respond to Him in any way that He asks (i.e. in our actions). A "belief" that is not accompanied by an appropriate response (change) is not the kind of belief that God is looking for.
5. A key part of the initial response that God wants from us is for us to be baptised. By being baptised we "sign" a covenant with God in which we pledge to become slaves to Him. This releases us from our former slavery to sin, transfers us to the new covenant and makes us part of Christ's body.
6. This does not mean that there is any power in the physical of baptism itself – it is God, through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, who gives salvation.
7. Once we are under this "new covenant", our sins are continually cleansed by Jesus' blood so we are continually perfect in the sight of God even though we fail to be perfectly sinless ourselves.
8. However, we can later choose to reject God and His gift of salvation. If we do so we remove ourselves from the "body" and return to our previous slavery to sin (fall away).

#### Other Points to Note

9. That God wants us to respond by being baptised doesn't mean He can't give salvation to someone who isn't baptised. In fact, there is some indication in the Bible that he will save people in certain other circumstances. However, even then, the gift of salvation is based primarily on the person's belief, faith and attitudes (rather than outward works).
10. The actual "point" at which one is "saved" is the subject of some debate. Since God can save someone who isn't baptised, and since God promises that those who believe will not be disappointed it seems likely that God would, for example, save someone who died on the way to being baptised. However, there does seem to be a particular significance attached to the point of baptism.
11. The normal practice in the New Testament was for people to be baptised "immediately" (as soon as physically possible after they came to believe / understand).
12. Since baptism doesn't have any power in and of itself, baptism without belief is meaningless.
13. Although God can (and does) cover our sins on an ongoing basis once we are part of His body, one of the dangers of sin is that it can draw us in and make it more likely we will walk away from Him and reject Him (consciously or otherwise).
14. Our attitude to others who may have a different understanding of baptism or the role of baptism should be to be prepared to explain to them what we believe (in a humble way), but at the same time recognise that they are answerable to God and not to us. We should also be willing to accept that there is every possibility that there are aspects of this that we have misunderstood.

## **MORE DETAIL AND SAMPLE SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES**

[Note that all quotes below come from the New American Standard Bible]

### **1. God can give salvation to anyone. He doesn't need us to do anything to "enable" Him to save us.**

John 5:21	"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes"
Rom 9:6-29	God said to Moses: "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." "So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires"
2 Tim 1:8-10	"[God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace"

### **2. There is nothing that anyone can do to "earn" salvation**

Rom 4:1-8	Abraham was justified by faith not works. If he had been justified on the basis of works then his salvation would not be a gift but something he was owed (like wages are owed to a worker). However, his "righteousness" was given as a "favour".
2 Cor 3:4-6	"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as <i>coming</i> from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God"
Gal 2:15-21	"by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified"
Eph 2:4-9	"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast"
Titus 3:4-6	"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy"

### **3. God indicates that He *will* give salvation to those who genuinely come to Him in faith / belief.**

Matt 10:32-33	"everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven"
Luke 11:9-13	"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened." "how much more will <i>your</i> heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"
John 1:11-13	"as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, <i>even</i> to those who believe in His name"
John 3:16-17	"so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life" "whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"
John 5:19-27	"he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life"
John 6:35-51	"the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out" "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life"
John 7:37-38	"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"
John 11:21-27	"he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 16:27	"the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father"
John 20:27-31	"these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name"
Acts 2:17-21	"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"
Acts 13:38-39	"through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things"
Acts 16:30-31	'after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"

Rom 3:21-22	"But now apart from the Law <i>the</i> righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even <i>the</i> righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe"
Rom 10:8-13	"if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed" "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved"
1 Cor 1:21	"God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."
Eph 1:13-14	"having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise"
1 Pet 2:6-8	"he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.' This precious value, then, is for you who believe"

**4. If our belief (faith) and love are genuine, then they will be demonstrated in our willingness to respond to Him in any way that He asks (i.e. in our actions). A "belief" that is not accompanied by an appropriate response (change) is not the kind of belief that God is looking for.**

Matt 7:13-21	"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."
Matt 10:32-33	"whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven"
Matt 18:21-35	"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."
Matt 25:14-46	"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me <i>something</i> to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me <i>something</i> to drink; ..." "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me <i>nothing</i> to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me <i>nothing</i> to drink; ..."
Luke 6:27-49	"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned." "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
Luke 13:1-9	"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
Luke 14:25-35	"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."
John 3:36 [** see note below]	"He who believes** in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey** the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
Acts 3:17-21	"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away"
Acts 10:34-43	"God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him" "through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins"
Rom 2:1-13	"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation."
1 Cor 13	"if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" [followed by a description of what "love" means in this context] "But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love"
Heb 10:26-27	"if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment"

James 2:14-26	<p>“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.”</p> <p>“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.”</p> <p>“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.”</p> <p>“For just as the body without <i>the</i> spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”</p>
1 John 1:5-10	<p>If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.</p>
1 John 3	<p>“the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil”</p> <p>“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother”</p>
1 John 4:7-21	<p>“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen”</p>
Rev 2:1-7	<p>“But I have <i>this</i> against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.”</p>
Rev 3:15	<p>“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”</p>

\*\* The word translated “believe” in John 3:36 is the Greek word “pisteuo” (G4100) – this is the normal Greek word for belief, and is closely related to the word “pistis” (G4102) which is normally translated “faith”. The word translated “does not obey” in this translation (NASB) of this verse is the Greek word “apeitheō” (G544) which is the negative of the word “peithō” (G3982) which *could* also be translated as “believe”. However, this second word incorporates the concept of being spurred to action by being convinced of something. For example it is used in Matt 27:20 (“the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death”), James 3:3 (“Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.”), etc.

**5. A key part of the initial response that God wants from us is for us to be baptised. By being baptised we "sign" a covenant with God in which we pledge to become slaves to Him. This releases us from our former slavery to sin, transfers us to the new covenant and makes us part of Christ's body.**

John 3:1-8	<p>“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”</p>
Mark 16:16	<p>“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”</p>
Acts 2:38-41	<p>“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”</p> <p>“those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls”</p>
Acts 8:12	<p>“when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike”</p>
Acts 16:33	<p>“immediately he was baptized, he and all his household”</p>
Acts 18:8	<p>“many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized”</p>
Acts 22:16	<p>“Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”</p>
Rom 6:1-7:6	<p>“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”</p> <p>“do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?”</p> <p>“But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.”</p>

1 Cor 12:13	"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"
Gal 3:27	"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."
Col 2:9-14	"in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."
1 Peter 3:18-22	"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"

**6. This does not mean that there is any power in the physical of baptism itself – it is God, through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, who gives salvation.**

2 Cor 3:4-6	"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as <i>coming</i> from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God"
Gal 1:3-5	"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age"
Eph 1:7	"In Him we have redemption through His blood"
Eph 2:11-18	"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ"
Heb 5:9	"And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"
Heb 9:11-28	"For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"
Heb 11:6	"And without faith it is impossible to please <i>Him</i> , for he who comes to God must believe that He is and <i>that</i> He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."
1 Pet 2:24	"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed"
1 Pet 3:22	"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience..."
1 John 1:7	"if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin"

Note – compare this to the healing of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1-14 – Naaman was healed by God's power (which was granted because he did what God instructed) not by some special healing power that existed in the water of the River Jordan.

**7. Once we are under this "new covenant", our sins are continually cleansed by Jesus' blood so we are continually perfect in the sight of God even though we fail to be perfectly sinless ourselves.**

John 6:39	"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day"
John 10:27-30	"I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand"
Heb 8:7-13	[Under the new covenant God says,] "for I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more"
Heb 10:14-17	"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified"
1 John 1:7	"if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

**8. However, we can later choose to reject God and His gift of salvation. If we do so we remove ourselves from the "body" and return to our previous slavery to sin (fall away).**

Luke 8:13	"Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away."
-----------	---



Luke 13:1-9	"A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?'"
Luke 14:25-35	"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him" "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?"
John 15:1-17	"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."
Acts 20:29-31	"from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them"
1 Cor 9:24-27	"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but <i>only</i> one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win." "I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."
1 Cor 15:1-2	"I make known to you, brethren, the gospel ... by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain."
Heb 6:4-6	"For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and <i>then</i> have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance"
Heb 10:19-31	"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment" "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?"
James 5:19-20	"if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death"
2 Pet 2:20-22	"it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them"
Rev 2:1-7	"But I have <i>this</i> against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent."

**9. That God wants us to respond by being baptised doesn't mean He can't give salvation to someone who isn't baptised. In fact, there is some indication in the Bible that he will save people in certain other circumstances. However, even then, the gift of salvation is based primarily on the person's belief, faith and attitudes (rather than outward works).**

Luke 23:39-43	"And He said to [the thief on the cross], 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'"
Rom 2:14-16	"For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."
Rom 4	"Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness." – Everybody who was saved under the Old Testament law was saved without being baptised and even then they were actually saved on the basis of faith, not on the basis of the law.

Of course, the fact that God *can* give salvation to someone who isn't baptised doesn't mean that we should teach non-Christians that they don't have to be baptised if that is the way that God wants people to respond (even if He is prepared to accept other responses in certain circumstances).

**10. The actual "point" at which one is "saved" is the subject of some debate. Since God can save someone who isn't baptised, and since God promises that those who believe will not be disappointed it seems likely that God would, for example, save someone who**

**died on the way to being baptised. However, there does seem to be a particular significance attached to the point of baptism.**

This point is possibly one of the more controversial issues separating those who believe that salvation is given at the point of baptism and those who believe that the physical act of being baptised in water is a physical (outward) representation of “true” baptism which is a spiritual event that takes place when you come to believe and accept Jesus.

There were two main points that seemed relevant us:

- There doesn't seem to be any obvious distinction in the New Testament between the “baptism” referred to in passages where people are instructed to be baptised (or where people's response is to be baptised) and other passages that indicate that baptism is the point where we are united with Jesus death & resurrection / are “clothed” with Christ / move “into” Christ's body / etc. (See 5 above for relevant passages). It seemed to us that the most natural interpretation of these passages was that God wants us to view baptism as more than just another command to be obeyed, but something that has particular significance in relation to us becoming part of “His body”.
- However, this needs to be balanced against the (large number of) passages that indicate that *everyone* who believes will be saved (“whoever believes will in Him have eternal life” / “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” / “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed” / etc. – see 3 above for passages). Although we didn't have any problem with interpreting this as referring to a form of belief that incorporates a genuine response (as per the passages in 4 above), we find it difficult to go as far as interpreting these as meaning, in effect, “everyone who believes will be saved as long as they have the correct understanding of the specific issue of baptism” – that seems to be going one step beyond what those passages are saying.

Thus, our conclusion was that the “normal” case is that God wants our response to Him to include the act of physical baptism (as the means by which we respond to Him, accept the gift of salvation that He offers and move into the new covenant). However, we would not go as far as saying that someone will definitely *not* be saved if he/she believes in God and earnestly seeks Him but responds in some way other than by being baptised (for some genuine reason) – particularly since the majority of the passages on the role of baptism are not phrased in a way that precludes there being some *other* “route” to salvation.

The one possible exception to this is John 3:3-5 in which Jesus says “unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” – however:

- This passage uses the phrase “born of water” rather than “baptised” – although it seemed most likely to us that this is referring to baptism, it could be argued that water is being used metaphorically here, particularly as Jesus clearly refers to water in a metaphorical way in the next chapter (John 4:10-15 – “whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life”).
- This statement was made by Jesus to Nicodemus (in the present tense) before Jesus death, and we know there was at least one person (the thief on the cross) who was saved after that point (without any indication that he had previously been baptised).
- This passage talks about being “born of water” as a condition to entry into the “kingdom of God” rather than talking about it being a condition to being “saved” or being given “eternal life” – This is in contrast to the words that Jesus uses a little later in that same conversation (John 3:14-17 – “whoever believes will in Him have eternal life”; “God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him”).

For this reason, we think that there is a possibility, based on this wording, that it is only people who have been baptised who are fully part of “the church” (Jesus body / God's kingdom on earth) – although others may still be “saved” (in the sense that if they die they would go to heaven). This also seems to be supported by the wording in a number of the other passages that indicate the role of baptism (they tend to focus on becoming part of Christ's body or similar, for example: “we were all baptized into one body”). However, we would not like to be too categorical on this point, and, it does not, in our view, detract from the main point that baptism should be an integral and immediate part of our response when someone decides that they want to become a Christian.

**11. The normal practice in the New Testament was for people to be baptised "immediately" (as soon as physically possible after they came to believe / understand).**

Acts 2:41	“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”
-----------	---

Acts 8:35-36	"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?'"
Acts 16:14-15	"A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.'"
Acts 16:33	"And he took them that <i>very</i> hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his <i>household</i> ."
Acts 22:16	"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

## 12. Since baptism doesn't have any power in and of itself, baptism without belief is meaningless.

Mark 16:16	"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
Acts 8:36-37	"the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'"
Heb 11:6	"And without faith it is impossible to please <i>Him</i> , for he who comes to God must believe that He is and <i>that</i> He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."
1 Pet 3:22	"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience..."

As a corollary to this, we believe that infant baptism is not appropriate as it is not a demonstration of acceptance or a pledge to God (the baby neither understands what is happening nor has any choice in the matter), and it is not preceded by belief (the baby is too young to be able to believe).

## 13. Although God can (and does) cover our sins on an ongoing basis once we are part of His body, one of the dangers of sin is that it can draw us in and make it more likely we will walk away from Him and reject Him (consciously or otherwise).

Luke 8:14	"The <i>seed</i> which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of <i>this</i> life, and bring no fruit to maturity"
1 Cor 5:5-8	"Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump <i>of dough</i> ?"
Heb 12:1-2	"let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"
James 5:19-20	"My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins"
2 Pet 1:9-11	"For he who lacks these <i>qualities</i> is blind <i>or</i> short-sighted, having forgotten <i>his</i> purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble"

## 14. Our attitude to others who may have a different understanding of baptism or the role of baptism should be to be prepared to explain to them what we believe (in a humble way), but at the same time recognise that they are answerable to God and not to us. We should also be willing to accept that there is every possibility that there are aspects of this that we have misunderstood.

Acts 18:24-26	"But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately"
Rom 14	"Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." "But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God." "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."



1 Cor 8:2-3	"If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know"
1 Pet 3:15	"sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always <i>being</i> ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"