

BAPTISM AND SALVATION — ACTS 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Ac.2:38)

- When looking at one verse of Scripture, we must first filter it through what we already know the Bible clearly teaches on the subject.
- This verse is used by some to say that baptism is necessary in order to receive eternal life (be saved).
- Those that teach that baptism is required for salvation see the phrase, “be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” focusing on the word “for” to carry the idea of “in order to get.”
- In both Greek and English, there are many possible usages of the word “for” [Greek, *eis*, used 1774 times in NT].

1 MODERN EXAMPLE: “Take two aspirin FOR your headache”

- This does not mean to take two aspirin in order to get a headache.
- This does mean to take two aspirin “because” you already have a headache.

2 PETER'S LATER MESSAGES IN ACTS TO UNBELIEVERS

- Peter associates forgiveness of sins with repentance and faith in Christ not mentioning baptism (Ac.3:17-26; 4:8-12).
- **Acts 10:43**, “whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins”
- Peter connects believing in Christ with receiving forgiveness for sins.
- Having believed Peter's message about Christ, the Holy Spirit fell upon them (v.44).
- After they believed they received forgiveness of their sins and the gift of the HS.
- Then Cornelius and his household were baptized (v.47-48).

3 GREEK WORD EIS USED IN CONNECTION WITH BAPTISM

Matthew 3:11, “I indeed baptize you with water unto [eis] repentance”

- This cannot mean baptize “in order to get” repentance • This means to baptize because they had already repented

Romans 6:3, “as many of us as were baptized into [eis] Christ Jesus were baptized into [eis] His death”

- This cannot mean they were baptized “in order to get” death • This means they were baptized because of His death

1 Corinthians 10:2, “all were baptized into [eis] Moses in the cloud and in the sea”

- This cannot mean they were baptized in order to get Moses as their leader • This means Moses was already their leader as he lead them out of Egypt

4 ACTS 2:38, GRAMMAR

- In **Acts 2:38** there is a change between the second person and third person between the verbs and pronouns.
- In Peter's commands to repent and be baptized the Greek verb translated “repent” is second person plural, while the verb “be baptized” is in the third person singular.
- Plus the pronoun “your” (‘forgiveness of your sins’) is also second person plural.
- This change from second person plural to third person singular and back connects the phrase “forgiveness of your sins” with the command to “repent.”
- SUMMARY: “You all repent for the forgiveness of your sins, and let each one of you be baptized.”
- RESULT: “Repent so that your sins may be forgiven (and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ)”
- **Acts 2:38** does not teach baptism is required for salvation.



POPULAR SALVATION ERROR
Hear + Believe + Repent + Baptize
= SAVED

Verb: “**repent**”

2nd Person, Plural
(Aorist Active
Imperative)

“**Repent for the remission of sins**”

Pronoun: “**You**”

Plural

Verb: “**be baptized**”

3rd Person, Singular
(Aorist Passive
Imperative)

“**let each one be baptized**”