

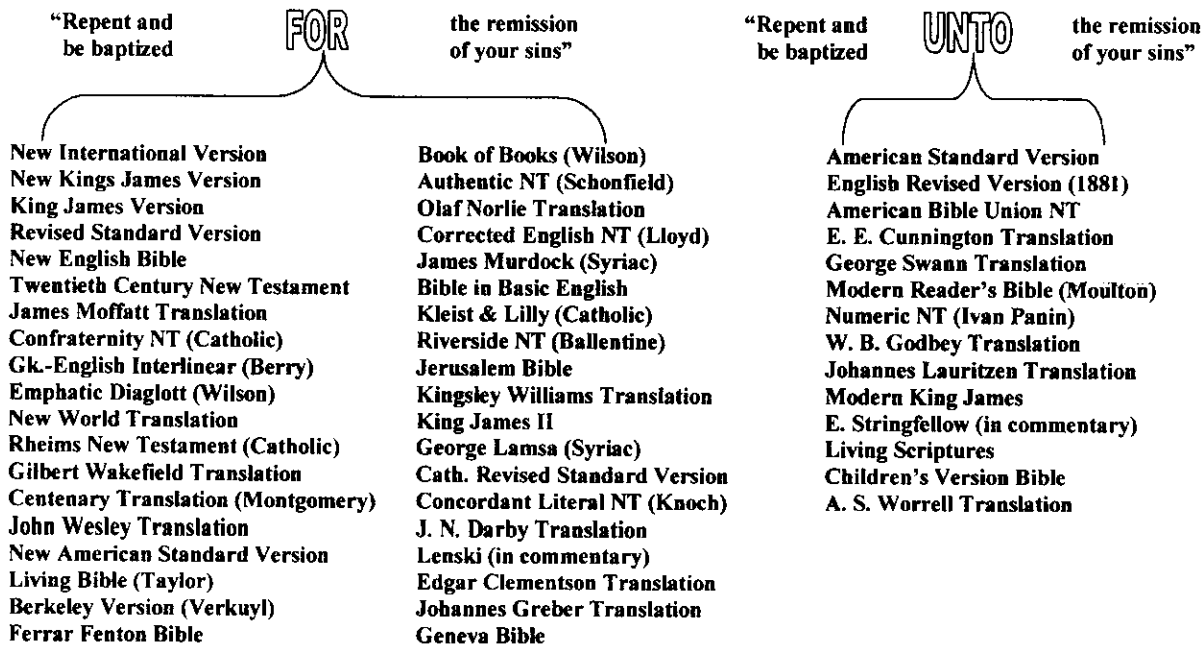
"BE BAPTIZED...FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS" - ACTS 2:38

by Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The word "FOR" above is translated from the Greek word "EIS." It is a preposition which may be translated as "FOR," "INTO," "TOWARD," "IN ORDER TO" and other words conveying the idea of forward direction. Thus, to be baptized "FOR" the remission (forgiveness) of sins indicates that baptism looks forward to the remission (forgiveness) of sins as a direct consequence or result of baptism. Below are listed numerous translations, both ancient and modern, which show how translators have attempted to communicate the idea or action of the word "EIS." Most simply translate it "FOR." The second most common translation of "EIS" is "UNTO."

While either of the above words are proper and correct, a number of other translators have made use of prepositional phrases in order to show more clearly the exact action meant by the word "EIS." Some of the translations even make use of other words in an attempt to show that the purpose of baptism in Acts 2:38 is to accomplish the "FORGIVENESS OF SINS" in behalf of the repentant believer in Christ.

Study each of the translations given below, noting especially the words that are underlined. You will see that "REMISSION OF SINS" is consistently made to follow and not precede the act of baptism. Thus, according to the clear teaching of this passage, one cannot expect his sins to be forgiven until such time that he is baptized into Christ. This is what God's Word says as revealed by the unanimous conclusion of translators representing a wide range of denominational backgrounds. In view of the evidence herein submitted, let us restore the act of baptism to its' original, scriptural place and purpose in God's plan of salvation.



These translations explain the idea of "EIS" by using descriptive phrases. Read each one carefully. Six times the phrase "WILL BE" is used, showing that remission of sins is future to baptism, not before it. Four times the phrase "IN ORDER TO" is used to show the purpose or result of baptism. Three times the phrase "TO HAVE" (or its equivalent) is used to show that baptism is a requirement for forgiveness. "IN THE HOPE OF HAVING" is used once and shows that one does not have remission of sins until baptized. "WITH A VIEW TO," "WITH REFERENCE TO," AND "IN RELATION TO" all are less expressive. These references were checked for accuracy from original sources.

- "So that you may have your sins forgiven" J. B. Philips Translation
- "That you may have your sins forgiven" Charles B. Williams Translation
- "To have your sins forgiven" Ronald Knox Translation
- "In the hope of having your sins remitted" Documents of the NT (G.W. Wade)
- "So that your sins will be forgiven" Good News for Modern Man (TEV)
- "Then your sins will be forgiven" William Barclay Translation
- "And your sins will be forgiven" New Life NT (Gleason Ledyard)
- "So that your sins will be forgiven" William Beck Translation
- "Your bad ways will be forgiven you" Good News for the World (Annie Cressman)
- "That your sins may be forgiven" Shorter Bible (C. F. Kent)
- "So your sins can be dealt with" Cotton Patch Version (Clarence Jordan)
- "So your sins will be forgiven" Today's English Version
- "In order to the remission of sins" Living Oracles (Alexander Campbell)
- "In order to have your sins forgiven" Edgar Goodspeed Translation
- "In order to the remission of your sins" H. T. Anderson Translation
- "For the forgiveness of and release from your sins" Amplified Translation
- "In order to the forgiveness of that and all (your) other sins; and you not only shall obtain the free and full remission of them all" Philip Doddridge NT
- "With a view to the remission of your sins" Richard Weymouth NT (3rd Edition)
- "{With a view} to forgiveness of the sins of you" Gk.-Eng. Interlinear (Marshall)
- "With reference to the remission of sins" Rodolphus Dickinson Translation
- "In relation to the fact that your sins have been put away" Kenneth Wuest NT
- "To the remission of sins" Robert Young's Literal Translation
- "Into the remission of your sins" Emphasized Bible - 1897 (J. B. Rotherham)

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