

# Original Christian Baptism

This folder is designed so the reader can check the sources. We are seeking the meaning of baptize as found in the Bible.

## What English Dictionaries say:

- *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*:  
“. . . from Greek baptizein to dip, baptize, from baptein to dip, dye . . .”  
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/baptize>  
- Also available from Amazon.com
- *Century Dictionary* (seven volumes):  
“Baptize . . . dip in water.”  
<http://www.global-language.com/CENTURY/>  
- Also available from Amazon.com (\$1,225)

## What Encyclopedias say:

- *Encyclopedia.com*  
“Gr. baptizein, f. baptein dip”  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/baptize.aspx>
- *Catholic Encyclopedia*  
“The word Baptism is derived from the Greek word, *bapto*, or *baptizo*, to wash or to immerse. It signifies, therefore, that washing is of the essential idea of the sacrament.”  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02258b.htm#l>  
- Also available from Amazon.com

## What Bible Dictionaries say:

- *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*  
“The Greek root-word baptizein [ βαπτίζω ] means to plunge, immerse, sink; hence to wash; to be immersed, overwhelmed (in trouble).”  
<http://www.studydrive.org/dic/bed/view.cgi?number=T78>  
- Also available from Amazon.com

## What Bible Translators Say:

A few have chosen to be accurate and used “immerse” instead of being popular

and put an English ending on the Greek word, calling it “baptize.”

- *Living Oracles* (by Alexander Campbell)  
Matthew 28:20: “Jesus came near, and said to them, All authority is given to me in heaven and upon the earth; go, convert all the nations, immersing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all the things which I have commanded you . . .”  
<http://ncbible.info/MoodRes/Transmission/SacredWritings/Campbell1860.pdf> - Also available from Amazon.com
- *An Understandable Version* (by William E. Paul)  
Acts 2:38: “And Peter replied, ‘Every one of you must repent [i.e., change your hearts and lives] and be immersed in the name of Jesus Christ [i.e., by His authority] so that your sins will be forgiven [by God] and then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit [to live in your hearts].’”  
<http://ncbible.info/MoodRes/Transmission/AUVcompleteEdition11-V3.pdf> - Also available from Amazon.com
- *The Emphasised New Testament* (by Joseph B. Rotherham)  
Acts 22:16: “And [now] what art thou going to do? Arise and get thyself immersed, and have thy sins bathed away, calling upon his name.”  
<http://ncbible.info/MoodRes/Transmission/RotherhamEmphasizedNT1897.pdf>  
- Also available from Amazon.com
- *The New Testament* (by H.T. Anderson)  
1 Peter 3:21: “. . . The likeness of which, even immersion, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the seeking of a good conscience toward God,) does now also save us,

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ . . .”

<http://ncbible.info/MoodRes/Transmission/AndersonNT1866.pdf>  
- Also available from Amazon.com

## What Greek Lexicons say:

- *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*:  
“Baptizo . . . Properly, to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge.”  
<http://bluehost.lewendwater.org/books/Thayers%20Greek-English%20lexicon%20of%20the%20New%20Testament/index.htm> Page 94 - Also available from Amazon.com
- *New Testament Greek Lexicon - New American Standard Version*  
“. . . to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk) . . .”  
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/search?q=baptize&References&rc=LEX&rc2=LEX+GRK>

## What some preachers say:

- John Calvin, Presbyterian:  
In his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Calvin said the form of baptism was not important while acknowledging that immersion was the practice in New Testament times. His views are widely accepted among Protestant churches.  
  
“Whether the person baptised is to be wholly immersed, and that whether once or thrice, or whether he is only to be sprinkled with water, is not of the least consequence: churches should be at liberty to adopt either, according to the diversity of climates, although it is evident that the term *baptise* means to immerse, and that this was the form used by the primitive Church.”  
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/calvin/inst/inst095.htm>  
See Paragraph 19. - Also available from Amazon.com
- John Wesley, Methodist:  
He says in his notes on Romans 6:4-  
“Buried with him in baptism – alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.”  
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/wesleys-explanatory-notes/romans/romans-6.html>  
- Also available from Amazon.com

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- Billy Graham  
“You may know that we urge immediate and extensive Bible study for each convert. As the Scripture is reviewed, the place of baptism will surely be discovered. If baptism were a requirement for salvation, we would certainly say that. But you couldn’t support that knowing, for example, that the thief on the cross had no opportunity for baptism or church membership. Yet on his confession, paradise was secured. Jesus said to him, ‘Today shalt thou be with me in paradise’ (Luke 23:43).”

<http://www.billygraham.org/articlepage.asp?ArticleID=1980>

**Response:** Christian baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The thief on the cross died before the resurrection of Christ and the requirement of baptism for salvation.

## What does the New Testament say?

- Acts 8:38: “. . . and they both went down into the water . . .”
- Acts 8:39: “. . . they came up out of the water . . . .”

Both must come up out of the water once having gone into the water. This would not be necessary in the case of sprinkling or pouring.

- Romans 6:4: “. . . buried therefore with him by baptism into death . . . .”
- Colossians 2:12: “. . . buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him . . . .”

Baptism is described in these verses as a burial. When something is buried, it is completely covered or submerged.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that the baptism of the New Testament was immersion.

## Is Baptism commanded?

- Acts 10:48: We find that Peter “. . . *commanded* them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

We also find Peter preaching to those who had crucified Christ. These Jews from all nations were cut to the heart for what they had done to Christ Jesus.

They asked the Apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:37, 38

Jesus said:

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Mark 16:16

Jesus also said:

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. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

(This outline was written by the late William Clapper)