

BAPTISM or SALVATION----Which Comes First?

Within the religious world there are many conflicting ideas about baptism---what it is and what role it plays in God's plans. A large portion of the Protestant world believes that baptism occurs *after* a person has become saved. But many others believe that baptism is a part of the conversion process and that it is at the point of baptism that one receives forgiveness of sins. Which is right?

Surely we can expect the scriptures to be accurate in explaining which comes first---baptism or salvation. Fortunately we have seven different passages in which baptism and salvation (or words that are the equivalent of salvation) are mentioned together. Hopefully a sincere seeker of the truth will accept the order in which the Bible presents them.

1. Mark 16:15-16....."Whoever believes and is BAPTIZED will be SAVED". (Obviously baptism is before salvation in this passage.)
2. Acts 2:37-38....."Repent and be BAPTIZED every one of you for the FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS". (Forgiveness of sins is what occurs when one is saved. Again, baptism is first here.)
3. Acts 22:16.....".....Get up and be BAPTIZED and WASH YOUR SINS AWAY....". ("Washing away" sins is equivalent to being saved. Once more, baptism is first.)
4. Romans 6:3-4....."....We were therefore buried with him in BAPTISM in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may LIVE A NEW LIFE". (The order is the same: baptism first and *then* the new life in Christ.)
5. Colossians 2:12.....".....Having been buried with him in BAPTISM and RAISED WITH HIM through your faith in the power of God..." (This is the same concept as Romans 6:3-4: being raised to a new life is what occurs when one becomes saved---and again it *follows* baptism!)
6. Galatians 3:27..."....For all of you who were BAPTIZED INTO Christ have CLOTHED YOURSELVES with Christ". (One who is saved is "in Christ". This passage says that one is "baptized into" Christ. Obviously one cannot be "baptized into" Christif he is *already* in Christ *before* baptism!)
7. I Peter 3:21.....".....And this water symbolizes BAPTISM which now SAVES you....." (Regardless of how one chooses to interpret this passage, one thing is clear: it places baptism *before* being saved.)

The scriptures are unanimous. In every single instance where baptism and salvation are together, baptism precedes salvation. EVERY SINGLE CASE! The reader must decide which he is going to believe---what the Bible says....or what his church teaches.