

**Samaritans
& Simon**

**Ethiopian
Eunuch**

**Saul of
Tarsus**

**Gospel preached
Acts 8:12**

**Gospel preached
Acts 8:35**

**Gospel preached
Acts 9:5,17**

**Gospel believed
Acts 8:12-13**

**Gospel believed
Acts 8:36 [37]**

**Gospel believed
Acts 9:11**

**Baptized
Acts 8:12-13**

**Baptized
Acts 8:38**

**Baptized
Acts 9:18**



1. Belief is followed by baptism

2. Preaching Jesus includes baptism

3. Baptism is immersion in water

4. Baptism doesn't require an audience

5. Baptism washes away our sin

6. Baptism is calling on the Lord's name

The background of the image is an underwater scene. The top half shows the surface of the water with ripples and light reflecting off it. The bottom half is a darker, more uniform blue. A dark blue horizontal banner spans the middle of the image, containing the main title. The word 'more' is written in a white, handwritten-style font above the banner, with a white arrow pointing down to the word 'Three' in the title.

more

Three Salvation Stories



**Thief on the
Cross**

**Philippian
Jail Guard**

**Cornelius
and Family**

Luke 23:39-43

Acts 16:30-34

Acts 10:44-48

Thief on the Cross – Luke 23:39-43

Jesus had not died or risen yet

Romans 6:3-4

Jesus had not given baptism command yet

Matthew 28:18-20

Philippian Jailer – Acts 16:30-34

Faith only?



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eternal and infinite value. Jesus' death on the cross was the perfect and complete payment for our sin ([1 John 2:2](#)). He took the consequences we deserved. Jesus' resurrection from the dead demonstrated that His death was indeed the perfectly sufficient sacrifice for sin.

How can I be saved? What do I need to do?

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" ([Acts 16:31](#)). God has already done all of the work. All you must do is receive, in faith, the salvation God offers ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). Fully trust in Jesus alone as the payment for your sins. Believe in Him, and you will not perish ([John 3:16](#)). God is offering you salvation as a gift. All you have to do is accept it. Jesus is the way of salvation ([John 14:6](#)).

Have you, in faith, received Jesus Christ as your Savior because of what you have read here? If so, please let us know by clicking on the "I have accepted Christ today" button below.

I have accepted Christ today

If you have any questions, please use the question form on our [Bible Questions Answered](#) page.





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A third and very important issue is the Church of Christ's emphasis on [baptism as being necessary for salvation](#). Church of Christ advocates point to Scriptures such as [Acts 2:38](#), [John 3:5](#), [Mark 16:16](#), [1 Peter 3:21](#), and [Acts 22:16](#) as biblical evidence that baptism is required for salvation. There is no denying that baptism is very important. Baptism is intended to be an initial act of obedience to Christ, an illustration of Christ's death and resurrection, a public declaration of faith in Christ, a step of identification with Him, and a proclamation of desire to follow Him. In the minds of the apostles and early Christians, baptism was so inextricably linked with salvation that the two were viewed as inseparable. The idea that a person could receive Christ as Savior and not be baptized was completely foreign to the early church.

With that said, however, baptism is not required for salvation. There are biblically plausible and contextually valid interpretations of each of the above Scriptures that do not indicate baptism as being necessary for salvation. There are many Scriptures that declare salvation to be received by faith / believing, with no mention of baptism or any other requirement ([John 3:16](#); [Acts 16:31](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). If baptism is necessary for salvation, these Scriptures are in error and the Bible is contradictory.

Church of Christ advocates argue that when the Bible speaks of salvation "by faith," it is speaking of a living faith, a faith that produces works of obedience, such as baptism and confession ([Romans 10:9-10](#)). They do not claim that baptism is a work that *earns* salvation, or in any sense makes a person worthy of salvation. Rather, the Church of Christ teaches that baptism is a work that God requires before He grants



Philippian Jailer – Acts 16:30-34

Faith only?

Acts 16:32-33, Hebrews 3:18-19

Philippian Jailer – Acts 16:30-34

Faith only?

Acts 16:32-33, Hebrews 3:18-19

Infant baptism?

that households *could* certainly include children. And even if we were to grant Strong's contention about this one family, it would not prove at all that *every* such family referred to as being baptized did not have children, or that the children were not also baptized. Nor does even the word *convert* necessarily imply an adult, any more than a "saved" person does (Luke 19:9; Acts 11:14, 16:31).

The biblical case for infant baptism is an argument from plausibility or antecedent probability. The deductions made lead one to conclude that a certain state of affairs is *probable*, more or less, but not absolutely *proven*. These deductive steps with regard to infant baptism are as follows:

1. All agree that the Bible refers to entire households being baptized.
2. It is reasonable to assume that most households (especially in the ancient world) would include children.
3. The Bible specifically places children within the parameters of those persons included in a household (if this commonsense assumption even needs to be asserted), at least eight times (see earlier).
4. Therefore, it is quite likely that baptisms of entire households would include baptisms of children, at least in *some* cases, if not in all.
5. It is quite *unlikely* that baptisms of entire households (granting the premise that the households can and usually do include children) would *never* include children.
6. Therefore, infants (in the greatest likelihood) were baptized.
7. In which case, infant baptism is sanctioned in Scripture, by apostolic example.

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Philippian Jailer – Acts 16:30-34

Faith only?

Acts 16:32-33, Hebrews 3:18-19

Infant baptism?

Acts 16:34, 8:12-13, 18:8

Cornelius – Acts 10:44-48

Acts 2 Parallels

Coming of the Holy Spirit (2:4, 10:44)

Gift of the Holy Spirit poured out (2:7,18,38, 10:45)

Exalting God in tongues (2:11, 10:46)

What does it mean? (v. 47)

Cornelius – Acts 10:44-48

Acts 11:15-18

Another fulfillment of Acts 1:5 (11:16)

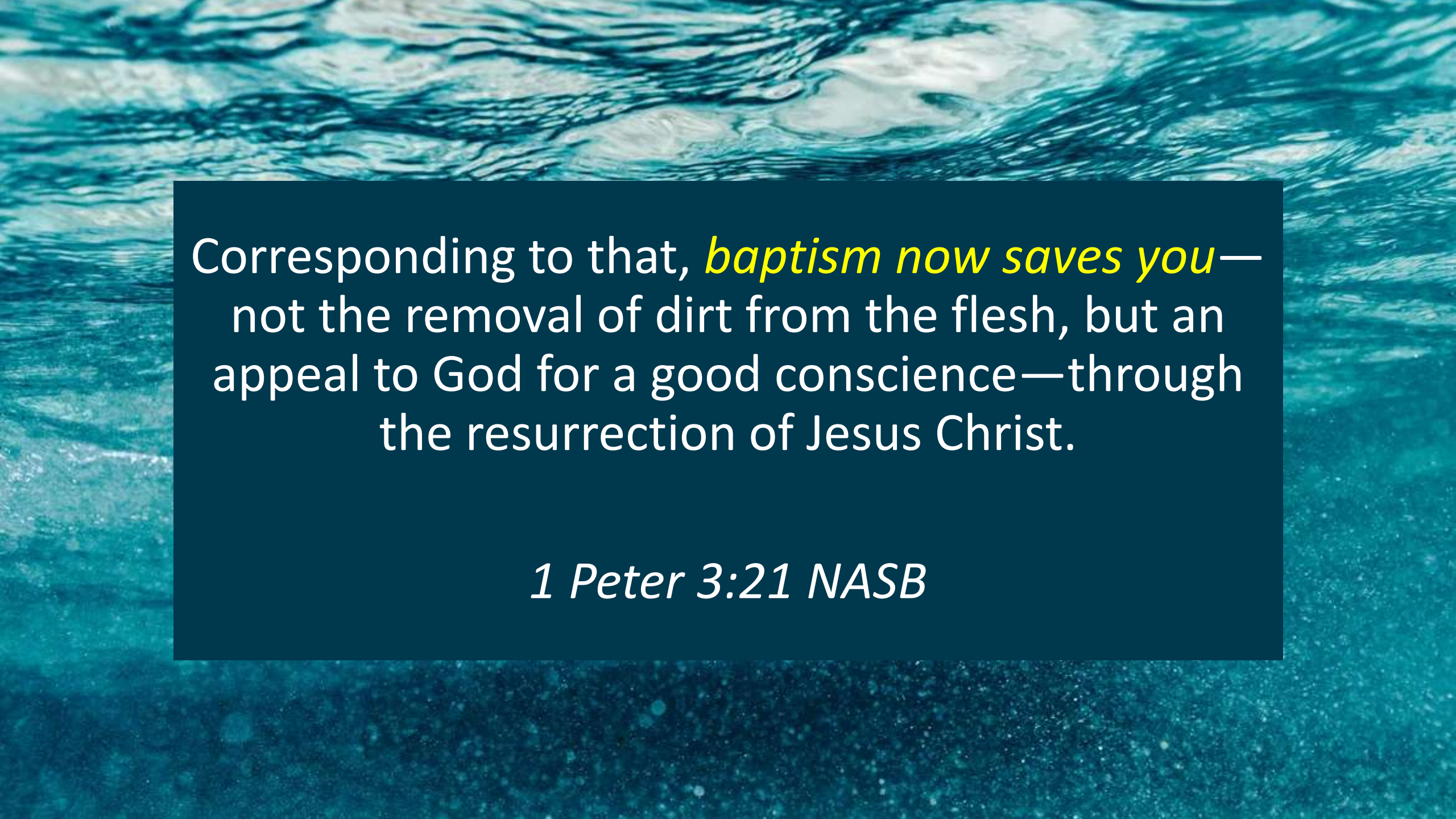
Same Joel 2 gift of Pentecost (11:17, 2:38)

God working (11:17)

Cornelius – Acts 10:44-48

**God was pouring out the Promise
on the Gentiles**

Peter commanded baptism (v. 48)



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.

1 Peter 3:21 NASB

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