



# [study guide]

## RELIGIOUS MYTHS: Week 5

4.28.13

### [set up]

When you have watched baptisms, what are some of the things that you have observed, picked up on or impacted you?

Have you ever been baptized? Share what led you to make the decision to be baptized and the details of that experience. If you have not, what has held you back?

How does being baptized have an effect on you as a follower of Christ?

### [digging deeper]

What are some of the biggest questions or controversies that surround baptism?

What does Baptism symbolize? (Rom. 6:3-4, Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13)

How does the baptism of a follower of Christ relate symbolically to Noah and the Flood and to Moses and the Israelites to the Red Sea?

(1 Cor. 10:1-4, 1 Peter 3:20, 21)

How do the following verses help us understand that baptism is not required for salvation?

John 4:2    Mark 16:16    Luke 23:43    Acts 10:44-48; 16:30,31    1 Cor. 1:14-17

Although not necessary for salvation, why should followers of Christ be baptized? (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:36-38; 18:8; 19:4,5)

In Acts 16:14-15, a woman named Lydia came to faith in Christ and was baptized as well as her household. In the same chapter, verses 27-33 tell of the Philippian jailer and his household coming to faith in Christ and then being baptized. These verses are used to support the view of infant baptism. But what part of this narrative is a glaringly obvious danger to making such a conclusion?

We know it is God's grace, the gospel and our belief in Jesus that gives salvation (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Heb. 9:22; 1 John 5:11-13). So since baptism doesn't wash away sins or bring forgiveness, how do we interpret the following verses?

Acts 2:38 – is it the baptism that brought forgiveness?

Acts 22:16 – did the baptism wash away Paul's sins? When was he actually saved?

1 Peter 3:21 – is it baptism that does the saving?

Mark 16:16 – who is actually condemned?



# [study guide]

## [living it out]

What have you learned or come to appreciate about baptism because of the message from last weekend and this study?

What would be your advice to someone if they asked you the following questions about baptism? What Scriptures come to mind as you think about possible answers you may give?

- I am a Christian, but do I really need to be baptized?
- Does baptism save me or wash away my sins?
- I was baptized as an infant. Should I get baptized again?
- I was baptized a few years ago, but I have really strayed from God, do you think I should get baptized again

If you have not been baptized yet, what has been holding your back? Are you ready to “go public” with your faith in Christ? If so, who can you invite to witness your baptism that as a missionary, your hope is Christ would draw them to Himself through your testimony and baptism?

Is there someone that you know who loves Jesus Christ but has not been baptized yet? Do you think you have an open door to encourage them to “go public” with their faith in Christ?

### Additional Resources:

Info on upcoming Baptisms on May 18th & 19th (Class on 5/5)

<http://cvconline.org/index.php/site/frontpage4>

### Watermark Booklet

<http://cvconline.org/images/uploads/Watermark.pdf>

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – chapter 49

Wayne Grudem Audio podcast #68 on same chapter

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/wayne-grudems-systematic-theology/id322844869>

Great sermon archive on Baptism from John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/topic-index/baptism>