



## A Thought about Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)

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“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” The words of this old hymn are true according to the teaching of the New Testament. The apostle John made it

crystal clear that the blood of Jesus is what removes the stain of sin when he wrote, “...Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood**” (Revelation 1:5b). I certainly would not argue against the Bible’s plain teaching that salvation is by the blood of Jesus. However, the question that must be answered is, “How does a person contact the blood of Jesus?” It does not matter how any man answers this question, it only matters how God answers it in His Word! The one with an honest heart will accept God’s answer (Luke 8:15).

The Bible teaches that Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34). With that in mind, Paul wrote: “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death**? Therefore we are buried with him **by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4). When does a person walk in newness of life? At the moment he has faith? Certainly not! According to Paul, newness of life comes when a person is baptized. Paul clearly taught that we are baptized into the death of Christ where we contact the precious blood of Christ that will wash away our sin.

This truth can even be seen in the example of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Having seen Jesus on the road near Damascus, he inquired of the Lord, “What wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6). The question implies what he must do to be saved. Friends, Saul **was not** saved on the road to Damascus. Can I prove that? Yes, for in the city of Damascus, Ananias, a gospel preacher, was sent to him by the Lord. Saul had been three days without food or water when Ananias came in and asked him, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, **and wash**

**away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). This verse explains two things for us. Number one, baptism is to wash away sins (that is how we can know Saul was not saved on the road! If he were, from what was he saved? For he was told to be baptized to wash away his sins). Number two, baptism is the equivalent of “calling on the name of the Lord.”

The Hebrews’ writer wrote, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** him.” We can only obtain salvation by obeying the commands Jesus has given and for the reason he has given. Jesus commanded all people everywhere to have faith in Him as the Christ (John 8:24) and by that faith to repent of their sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16). Baptism is one of Jesus’ commands and He has not given any non-essential command. If you would like to know more about what to do to become a Christian, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: [www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org).

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