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# THE NT AND BAPTISM

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*Talk to me about... #4*

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# THE NEW TESTAMENT AND BAPTISM

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- **Jesus taught in specifics about baptism.**
  - ➔ **Must be born of water and Spirit – John 3.5**
  - ➔ **Belief and baptism necessary for salvation – Mark 16.16**
  - ➔ **Baptism plays a role in becoming a disciple – Matthew 28.18–20**
- **The Holy Spirit confirmed the importance of baptism.**
  - ➔ **The apostles preached the necessity of repentance and baptism – Acts 2.38**
  - ➔ **Baptism played a role in Saul's sins being taken away – Acts 22.16**
  - ➔ **Baptism was presented as the means to enter Christ – Romans 6.3ff**

# CONSIDERING RESPONSES:

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*“Baptism is not essential because it is a work —  
and if it is a work, then it nullifies the grace of God.”*

## ➤ What is meant by “work”?

➡ Baptism is not like Mosaical “law-keeping” – Galatians 3.10–12,24–27

➡ Baptism embraces a confession of my need for a Savior – Colossians 2.12

▸ Baptism does not supplant faith — rather, baptism embraces faith!

## ➤ Does my response to God negate His offer of grace?

➡ Note what Paul says brings us into God’s grace – Romans 5.1–2

➡ The grace of God calls us to be active – Titus 2.11–13

# CONSIDERING RESPONSES:

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*“Baptism is NT circumcision — just like Abraham was justified without circumcision, I can be justified without baptism”*

- This is a form of the “outward expression of an inward grace” teaching.
- Where is baptism ever called “new covenant circumcision”?
  - ➔ Colossians 2 discusses circumcision in a context of baptism:
    - Baptism is never called circumcision.
    - The circumcision that occurs is “without hands” — baptism utilizes hands.
    - It’s the body of flesh (sin, cf. Rom. 6.6) that is cut off — baptism doesn’t take away sin, only the blood of Christ takes away sin (cf. Hebrews 10).
    - Christ’s blood is accessed by faith in baptism (Colossians 2.12).

# CONSIDERING RESPONSES:

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- Where is baptism ever called “new covenant circumcision”?
  - ➔ Colossians 2 discusses circumcision in a context of baptism:

*The circumcision described in Colossians 2 is not baptism. It takes place in connection with baptism, but it is distinguished from baptism because this spiritual circumcision is done by God, without hands, and cuts away the sin from our hearts.*



# CONSIDERING RESPONSES:

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*“The thief on the cross was saved without baptism!”*

## ➤ Our lives and the life of the thief are not equivalents:

### ➔ Consider the possibility that the thief (Luke 23.39ff) was not an alien sinner:

- He knew of the responsibility to fear God (40). He knew about Jesus' life (41). He knew Jesus was innocent (41). He knew Jesus was a king (42). He knew Jesus was receiving His kingdom (42). He knew Jesus had power beyond death (42).

- Is this an alien sinner who was just learning of Jesus? Or are there better explanations (Mk. 1.5).

### ➔ The thief lived under a different system than you and me — the old law was taken away with Jesus' death and resurrection (Colossians 2.14f; Hebrews 9.15ff).

- The law under which the thief lived mentioned nothing about baptism.