



Sermon Outlines by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

**Baptism for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
(Or When Is Salvation?)**

I. Introduction:

1. There is only one verse that commands "baptism for the remission of sins" – **Acts 2:38**. To those who believe in the Bible as the inspired Word of God — one is enough!
2. How many verses does it take? **Only one verse teaches**: the salvation of the "**thief on the cross**" **Luke 23:43**; the **first day of the week contribution** **I Corinthians 16:2** BUT no denominational preacher needs more on these subjects!
3. There is no English word "baptism" (-ize, -ist) in the Old Testament, but illustrations for understanding it are used in the New Testament.
4. No one has ever been blessed by God through "faith only" **James 2:24**
5. If God has chosen to save anyone through water, as the LORD said to Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" **Genesis 18:14**
6. No matter how many (or who) profess(es) to be saved without baptism, "It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns?" **Romans 8:33b-34a**

II. Discussion: Parsed:

A. Christ Was Preached First Acts 2:22-36

1. Always preceded baptism – **Acts 10:36-43; 19:4-5**
2. Produces faith (conviction) – **Acts 2:37; Romans 10:17**

- a) **I John 5:1** - No one is born of God without faith
- b) **I John 5:2-3** - No one is born of God with "faith only"

B. Repent

- 1. **Acts 17:30** – God commands all men everywhere
- 2. **Luke 24:47** – "and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

C. Be Baptized (call upon His name)

- 1. **Acts 2:21 (Joel 2:32)**, hence **Acts 2:38-41**
- 2. **Acts 22:16** was completed in baptism **CF Acts 9:18**
- 3. **I Timothy 1:15-16 CF Acts 26:19**
- 4. Only baptism in water is commanded **Acts 8:35-36; 10:47-48**
- 5. Baptism is always a "burial" **Romans 6:4**

D. For the Remission of Sins

- 1. Exact parallel in Greek & English – **Matthew 26:28**
 - a) If saved before baptism, then saved before Jesus blood used!
 - b) If not, why not?
- 2. Same purpose and element as John the Baptist's baptism
 - a) **Mark 1:14**
 - b) John's baptism was prospective, no good after Pentecost
Acts 19:4

E. Gift of the Holy Spirit

- 1. Promise of the miraculous, but limited **Acts 2:41, 43**
- 2. Apostles needed to lay hands on the baptized **Acts 8:12-18**

III. Patterns

A. Noah's Flood - New World

1. Separated sinful world from washed world **Genesis 6:1-9:19**
2. Eight souls saved "in the ark" (stayed dry!?) **Genesis 7:23**
3. God can use water to save today (must get wet!?) **I Peter 3:18-21**

B. The Red Sea – New People

1. Preceded by blood sacrifice (Passover – **Exodus 12:1-28**)
2. "All" were "baptized into Moses" **I Corinthians 10:1-4**
3. Christ is our "Passover" (**I Corinthians 5:7**); all saved today are baptized **I Corinthians 12:13**

C. Preparation of the priests – New Tabernacle/ Temple

1. They washed their bodies, then garments **Exodus 29:4-5**
2. Baptized "put on Christ" **Galatians 3:26-27**; **Ephesians 2:21-22**

IV. Postures

A. "Be Baptised Like Jesus"

1. NO ONE CAN be sinless before baptism
 - a) **I John 1:8** - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"
 - b) **I John:10** - "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us"!
2. JESUS CHRIST WAS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE
Matthew 3:5-6, 15
3. ***While alive, Jesus could forgive because He is God*** **Mark 2:1-12**
 - a) The "THIEF ON THE CROSS!" was saved as everyone to whom Jesus pronounced forgiveness while He lived;

b) NOT ONE OF THEM, not even the “thief,” became an example of how God forgives sins – not under Moses’ Law, OR under Jesus’ Law!

B. Cannot “obey God” and not know it is “for the remission of sins”

1. Noah and family knew why they were saved **Hebrews 11:7**;
2. Israelites knew why they “passed through the Red Sea”
Hebrews 11:29;
3. Old Testament Priests knew why they washed before worship;
4. Jews **Acts 2:38** and Gentiles **Acts 10:43, 48** knew why baptism was required, and that salvation was NOT promised before this action;

C. No one since Pentecost in Acts 2 has been saved without baptism

1. Jesus gave the rule **Mark 16:15-16**
2. Even Jesus did not make an exception for Saul of Tarsus **Acts 9:6**

D. IF BAPTISM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SALVATION:

1. Why did Jesus exempt Himself from it?
2. Why did Peter say it did? **I Peter 3:21**
3. Why does the Devil attack it so?

V. Conclusion:

1. Faith must be in God’s Power and Jesus’ resurrection. **Colossians 2:12**
2. The inward cleansing occurs as the outward action occurs.
Hebrews 10:22
3. There is no other way for a sinner to obey Jesus today.