



## **Is Baptism An Enemy of Faith?** by [John T Polk II](#)

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

**John 12:42-43**: Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

“Many” “rulers” among the Jews “believed in” Jesus as the Christ, but “did not confess Him,” though Jesus made it clear about confession.

“Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God” (**Luke 12:8-9**).

Faith only, without confession, receives “the praise of men,” but not the “praise of God.” It’s pitiful to see people whose faith does not obey.

### **What Other Non-essential Follows Faith?**

When Jesus said,

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (**Mark 16:16**)

There are people who say, “You are saved at the point of faith without being baptized.” Paul told Timothy “faith and love” are in Christ Jesus (**1 Timothy 1:14**), do these same people say “love” is non-essential? Christians must have “faith and a good conscience” (**1 Timothy 1:19**); is a “good conscience” non-essential? Paul was “a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth” (**1 Timothy 2:7**), is “truth” non-essential? A “good minister of Jesus Christ” is “nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine” (**1 Timothy 4:6**). Is “good doctrine” non-essential? A false argument that tries to get of baptism for salvation also rules out: love, a good conscience, truth, and good doctrine!

### **Why Did Jesus Include Baptism?**

[Jesus said,] “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (**Mark 16:16**)

He placed baptism after believing but before salvation. Why is this so? ***If Jesus had felt baptism had nothing whatever to do with salvation, He would have***

- 1) ***Left it out altogether***, but He included it;
- 2) ***Mentioned it after salvation***, but not one passage of Scripture where baptism and salvation/ remission of sins are mentioned together places salvation ***before*** baptism;
- 3) ***Specifically said that it had nothing whatever to do with salvation***, but no New Testament writer ever taught this;
- 4) ***Warned His disciples that it contradicted God's other commandments*** but Peter did not think it contradicted any passage dealing with "works," "grace," "love," or "faith" when he said "baptism doth also now save us "  
**(1 Peter 3:21 KJV)**.

### ***Does Baptism Contradict Other Scripture?***

Israelites were commanded to "Honor your father and mother" (**Exodus 20:12**), but Pharisees and scribes had claimed whatever they might use to honor parents was "Corban," or devoted to God (**Leviticus 1:2**). Jesus exposed their using the Bible to contradict the Bible by saying,

"Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition" (**Matthew 15:3-6**).

Did Jesus contradict other Scriptures when He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**)?

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Since "Scripture cannot be broken" (**John 10:35**), then it is a "commandment of men" to make Paul cancel Jesus' requirement for salvation.

### ***What Hinders Baptism?***

When Phillip "preached Jesus," the Ethiopian eunuch asked,

"See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (**Acts 8:35-36**).

If you have been hindered from being baptized, is it because Jesus wasn't preached to you, for He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**)? Were you hindered because you were taught God didn't require it, when Jesus commanded:

... Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (**Matthew 28:19**).

Or were you hindered because you were taught to pattern yourself after someone saved before Jesus died on the cross? For after Jesus death, burial, and resurrection, the Apostles commanded,

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

Don't let anyone hinder you from being baptized into Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection!

--- **John T Polk II**

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