

GOING PUBLIC

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Scripture: Matthew 28:19 [TNIV]; Mark 7:4, Luke 11:38

Introduction

1. Today, I want to talk about baptism. It's such a big part of what we do. If you grew up with any kind of religious background, you have an **opinion** about baptism. Funny thing, you may not be a religious person or walking with God, and yet you may have a strong opinion about baptism.
2. You may have no interest in church, but **you had a baby** and you want that baby baptized . . . quickly. *Fear sets in. There is a lot of superstition associated with this rite.*
3. Chances are your *view was shaped almost entirely by the religious tradition you grew up in.* If you were Baptist, you were dunked; Presbyterian, sprinkled; Catholic, christened as a baby. For some, it meant church membership, becoming part of a covenant, shorter time in purgatory, staying out of hell.
4. Today I want to talk about baptism according to what **Scripture** and **history** tell us. At the end, you will find yourself asking, "If that's true, then why did my pastor tell me . . .?" "Why did my parents insist . . .?" And my answer is, "I'm not sure." I have some ideas, but the best thing to do would be to ask them.
5. Here's why this is important. In the first century, when a person acknowledged Jesus as his Savior, he was baptized. Jesus said this at the end of his ministry:

Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."

[Every Christian tradition involves baptism because of that verse. We all agree on that. And that's about it! But it shouldn't be confusing. To understand the sacrament, we need to understand the word and a couple of things that happened.]

I. The word translated baptism is a common Greek term: [bapti÷zw — wash, plunge, soak, dip].

A. It didn't always get translated. Sometimes: *transliterated*: to change letters into corresponding characters or letters of another alphabet or language. This is the case in Matthew 28:19—bapti÷zw.

B. Common term.

1. It was used to describe what you did with a cloth you were dying.
2. It was used to describe ships lost in battle.
3. It was used interchangeably with the term for drowning.
4. In 200 BC, it was found in a pickle recipe.