

**THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISUSED
VERSES FROM SCRIPTURE - Part III**

Reference: **Acts 2:38**

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Definition: In a religious context salvation means saving someone's _____ from sin and sins consequences. The academic study of salvation is called "soteriology."

Question: How does someone receive salvation?

- the _____ has said we are saved through adherence to certain rules and regulations
- the _____ has said our goodies need to outweigh our baddies
- the _____ has said not to sweat it because at some point all people are going to receive salvation
- the religious _____ has said we have to complete the right religious rituals and forms

This message focuses on a religious ritualistic form of baptism called **baptismal regeneration** and **Acts 2:38** is the principle proof text used to support that argument.

The word "*generate*" means to cause something to come about as in a birth. So if generate means "*birth*" then re-generate means a "*rebirth*." Regenerate means to be born a second time and this is where we get the phrase "*born again*." Christians are considered regenerate ones and born again ones.

Reference: **John 3:3**, "*Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again** (regenerated) he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*"

This means at our first human birth we were **born dead** in a spiritual sense and then at our rebirth (regeneration) we are **born alive** in a spiritual sense.

Reference: **Ephesians 2:1**, "*And you He (Christ) **made alive** (at salvation) **who were dead** (pre-salvation) *in trespasses and sins,*"*

Reference: **1 John 3:14**, "*We know that we have **passed from death** (being dead in a spiritual sense) **to life** (being alive in a spiritual sense), *because we love the brethren...*"*

Definition: Biblical **regeneration** is a divine operation where God gifts **spiritual life** to someone that _____ on Jesus for salvation.

Evangelical Christianity teaches that salvation and specifically regeneration happens as the result of **someone believing on Jesus**.

Reference: **Acts 16:30** and **31** (see screen)

Believing on Jesus is the same as a two sided coin: one side is repentance and the second side is faith. Both sides are essential and simultaneous.

- Repentance is a turning away _____.
- Faith is a turning and trusting _____

Definition: Baptismal regeneration is the mistaken idea that God grants **spiritual life** to someone that believes on Jesus **and is _____ for the forgiveness of sins**.

verse thirty-eight, *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins...’”*

Four reasons why **Acts 2:38** does **NOT** teach baptismal regeneration:

One: That interpretation ignores the _____ of the passage in question.

Reference: **Acts 2:14, 22-23, 36-38** (see screen)

Two: That interpretation violates the hermeneutical (biblical interpretation) principle called “_____ **Scriptura**.”

Definition: Analogia Scriptura (the analogy of Scripture) means to use Scripture to _____ Scripture.

The sum of Scripture teaches that regeneration or salvation is through believing not through being baptized (**John 1:12, 3:16, 3:36, Acts 16:31, Romans 3:21-30, 4:5, 10:9-10, Philippians 3:9, and Galatians 2:16**, etc.)

Three: Throughout the New Testament forgiveness is connected to **believing _____**.

Reference: **Acts 10:43-45, 47-48** (see screen)

Reference: **I Corinthians 1:14-17** (see screen)

Four: That interpretation comes from _____ the verse. Baptismal regenerationists interpret the word “*for*” in Peter’s statement to mean “*in order to*.”

*“Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **in order to** receive the remission (forgiveness) of sins”*

That reading has Simon Peter teaching that someone has to be baptized first before his sins can be forgiven, but that’s not what Peter said.

The word “*for*” in this verse is the Greek preposition “*eis*.” That Greek word can be translated to mean “*for the purpose of*” or “*in order to*”; but, when that Greek word is used with verbs of change, it is to be translated “_____” and that is an important distinction.

The people at Pentecost were instructed to be baptized; not in order to have their sins remitted (forgiven) but because their sins had already been remitted (forgiven) at their salvation. Their sins were remitted (forgiven) when they repented and then received Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.

Baptism comes after someone’s salvation; but, it is never the cause of someone’s salvation.

Question: If water baptism cannot save and cannot contribute to someone’s salvation, then why did Peter stress that these people should be baptized?

Answer: because baptism _____ someone in a public sense with Jesus Christ.