

The Urgency of Baptism

by Bryan Gibson

Obviously, it's not very urgent to some, because they delay doing it. When you think you're saved without it, there's really no rush. That baptism IS an urgent matter can be seen from several examples in the Book of Acts.

When the people in Acts 2 wanted to know what to do to be saved, Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ..." (Acts 2:38). Those who "gladly received his word" didn't wait—they were baptized "**that day**" (Acts 2:41).

The people of Samaria weren't inclined to wait, either. "But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized" (Acts 8:12). Again, no delay—when they believed, they were baptized.

An Ethiopian treasurer learned the truth and was very **anxious** to be baptized. He said to Philip, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). The treasurer confessed his faith in Jesus, and "both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him" (Acts 8:38).

The Lord sent Ananias to tell Saul what he "must do," and he made it clear: "**Why are you waiting?** Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). Saul didn't wait—"he arose and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).

Paul and Silas preached the gospel to a Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16:32), and here's the response: "And he (jailer) took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And **immediately** he (jailer) and all his family were baptized" (Acts 16:33).

Why were all these people baptized right away? It's really very simple. They **had** to be baptized to have their sins forgiven, or washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16)—even though they had already confessed their faith in Jesus and repented of their sins. They clearly understood they could not be saved **until** they were baptized (1 Peter 3:21).

Do YOU need to be baptized for the remission of your sins? If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and if you are willing to repent or turn from your sins, please don't wait. Do just what the people above did—do it **immediately**; do it **today**.