

ACTS 2:38 – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Peter's answer to the people's question "what shall we do?" with regard to Peter's accusation that they had crucified Jesus the Messiah was that they should **first repent** and then be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Then they were to **be baptized for the remission of their sins**.

At first glance, this verse seems to teach salvation by baptism, and many people insist that this is precisely what it does mean. However, such an interpretation is impossible for the following reasons:

1. In dozens of NT passages, salvation is said to be by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 6:47; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9, for example). No single verse or two could conceivably contradict such overwhelming testimony.
2. The thief on the cross had the assurance of salvation apart from baptism (Luke 23:43).
3. The Savior is stated to not have baptized anyone (John 4:2), a strange omission if baptism is essential to salvation.
4. The Apostle Paul was thankful that he baptized only a few of the Corinthians — a strange cause for thankfulness if baptism has saving merit (1 Cor. 1:14-16).