In the world *generally,* or even in the religious world *specifically,* there seems to be much confusion and little understanding of "baptism" and how it fits into salvation. For instance...

- Belief → Salvation → Baptism (Protestant)
- Infant Baptism → Salvation → Belief (Catholic)
- H.S. Baptism → Belief → Salvation (Evangelicals)
- Belief → Baptism → Salvation (Jesus, Mk.16:16)

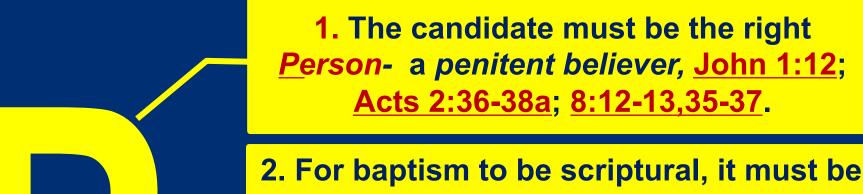
Let's see if we can make things a bit clearer...

The concept of baptism is simple. It represents two facets of our spiritual lives:

- 1. The *Death* of our old self of selfishness and sin, Rom.6:1-7; Col.2:12; Eph.2:1ff.
- 2. The *Birth* of our new self of selflessness and service, Rom.6:8-11; John 3:3,5.

Baptism is, therefore, both an end as well as a beginning.

Scriptural, New Testament baptism is made of three essential parts-remember the 3 P's:



- 2. For baptism to be scriptural, it must be done for the right *Purpose* for the remission of sins through the blood of Jesus, Acts 2:38b; 22:16; Titus 3:5.
- 3. For baptism to be effective, it has to be the right <u>Practice- immersion/burial</u> in water, <u>Col.2:12; Rom.6:4</u>.

For baptism to be scriptural and effective, it requires the right *Person*, *Purpose*, and *Practice*.

With these things in order, baptism:

- ✓Is "in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matt.28:19b) because it is by their authority;
- ✓ Makes you a "disciple" of Christ, Matt. 28:19a;
- ✓ Is the beginning of your journey toward heaven, Matt.28:20.

Now, here are the questions to be answered:

- ► Are you the right *Person* a penitent believer in Jesus Christ?
- ➤ Do you understand the *Purpose* of baptism- the remission of your sins and becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- ➤ Are you ready to have the right *Practice* of immersion/burial in water applied to you?

Then, "why do you delay?" Acts 22:16