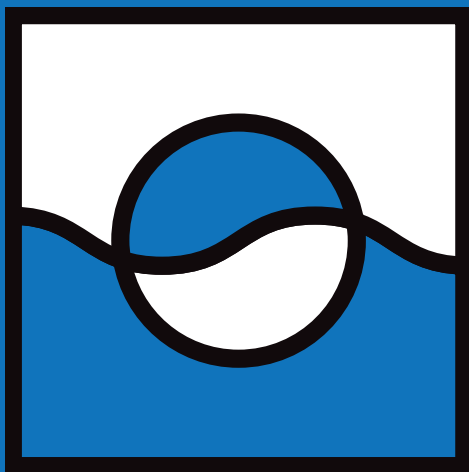


IX 9Marks

Why Should I Be Baptized?



**Bobby
Jamieson**

Church Questions

Endorsements for the Church Questions Series

“Christians are pressed by very real questions. How does Scripture structure a church, order worship, organize ministry, and define biblical leadership? Those are just examples of the questions that are answered clearly, carefully, and winsomely in this new series from 9Marks. I am so thankful for this ministry and for its incredibly healthy and hopeful influence in so many faithful churches. I eagerly commend this series.”

R. Albert Mohler Jr., President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Gloria Furman, author, *Missional Motherhood* and *The Pastor’s Wife*

“As a pastor, I get asked lots of questions. I’m approached by unbelievers seeking to understand the gospel, new believers unsure about next steps, and maturing believers wanting help answering questions from their Christian family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers. It’s in these moments that I wish I had a book to give them that was brief, answered their questions, and pointed them in the right direction for further study. Church Questions is a series that provides just that. Each booklet tackles one question in a biblical, brief, and practical manner. The series may be called Church Questions, but it could be called ‘Church Answers.’ I intend to pick these up by the dozens and give them away regularly. You should too.”

Juan R. Sanchez, Senior Pastor, High Pointe Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

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Church Questions

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Why Should I Join a Church?, Mark Dever

Why Should I Be Baptized?

Bobby Jamieson

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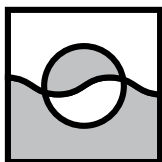
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See, here is water! What prevents
me from being baptized?

Acts 8:36



As you have probably discovered from the title, the goal of this booklet is to persuade you to be baptized. But this booklet's aim applies to you only if two other "ifs" also apply: (1) *if* you have repented of your sins and trusted in Christ for salvation, and (2) *if* you have not yet been baptized as a believer in Christ.

Let's talk about that first "if."

The first recorded words of Jesus's public ministry are, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). To repent is to turn, to turn away from sin and turn toward God (Matt. 3:8; Acts 20:21). To repent is to reverse course, to

perform an about-face. To repent is to recognize God's authority over you and the ways that you have rejected and resisted his authority. To repent is to acknowledge that you have tried to live as your own master in the past and to embrace Jesus Christ as your Lord, now and forever.

This radical 180-degree turn of repentance is only possible as an act of faith. Faith in whom? Faith in what? Faith in Christ as he offers himself to you in the gospel. Jesus came to earth not just to teach and to heal but also to die and to triumph over death. As sinners, we all deserve God's eternal retribution. This judgment is ultimately what Jesus came to save us from. This judgment is what he endured on the cross (Rom. 3:21–26). This judgment is what he banished from the lives all who believe through his rising from the dead (Rom. 4:25). The way you receive this gracious gift is simply by turning away from sin and trusting Christ.

So have you turned from sin and trusted in Christ?

If not, repent and believe today. Right now. Confess to God that you have spurned him and

sinned against him. Place your trust in Christ to save you and confess your faith to God in prayer. This gospel, the good news Jesus came to proclaim and accomplish, is the most important news you can ever hear. Trusting Christ as he is offered to you in the gospel is the most important decision you can ever make.

Baptism, the subject of this booklet, is far less important than the gospel. Nevertheless, baptism is important precisely because baptism is about the gospel. Baptism is attached to the gospel and depicts the gospel. If the gospel is important to you, baptism should be too—important enough for you to do it.

Now, let's briefly talk about that second "if." Have you been baptized as a believer? Perhaps you genuinely believe the gospel now, but are uncertain if you truly trusted Christ at the time you were baptized. *Was I really trusting in Christ when grandpa baptized me at age 8?* Ultimately, I cannot tell you what to do. That's between you and the Lord. If you sincerely believed what you understood at the time about Christ's death and resurrection and the forgiveness of sin, then you

may not need to do anything further. However, if you become convinced that you were not born again at the time when you were baptized, then you still need to be baptized. Not “re-baptized,” but simply baptized. The bottom line is pray, ask God for wisdom, and then press ahead rejoicing that salvation comes through faith alone in Christ alone.

With these foundations laid, let’s talk about baptism. You could think of this booklet as a brief dialogue about baptism. In the first section, we ask, “Why should I get baptized?” In the second section, we address some of the most common objections to getting baptized: “I don’t want to get baptized because . . .” And finally, the last section deals with the question, “What should I do now?”

Let’s get started.

Why Should I Get Baptized?

Why should you get baptized? Let me give you three reasons. My hope in laying out these reasons is that you will find them not only persua-

sive but also inviting and compelling. As we'll see, Christ not only commands believers to get baptized, baptism is also a gift he graciously gives for our benefit and blessing.

Here then are three reasons to get baptized: (1) to obey Christ's command, (2) to publicly profess faith in Christ, and (3) to formally commit yourself to Christ and his people.

1. To Obey Christ's Command

Why should you get baptized? To obey Christ's command. Which command? The one he gives us in Matthew 28:19. Let's look at this verse in context:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18–20)

After his resurrection, Jesus commanded his disciples to go and “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them” (Matthew 28:19). In this booklet, pastor Bobby Jamieson unpacks Scripture’s teaching on the importance of baptism in the local church, responding to seven reasons people often give for not being baptized.

Church Questions is a series that seeks to provide ordinary Christians with sound and accessible biblical teaching by answering common questions they have about church life. Each volume offers biblical answers and practical applications with the goal of nurturing healthy church practice and commitment.

Bobby Jamieson (PhD, University of Cambridge) serves as an associate pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC. He previously served as assistant editor for 9Marks. Bobby and his wife have four children.

CHURCH RESOURCES

