

*Please discuss the two baptisms, John the Baptist and what Paul talks about saying that Israel was baptized at the Red Sea. What type of baptism was that? Paul said he is thankful he did not baptize anyone. Are only good people baptized? Baptism was not a requirement for salvation? What about infant baptism?*

John the Baptist proclaimed:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire (Mt 3:11).

He meant that when Jesus comes, he will baptize men with the Holy Spirit. He will baptize with fire when he comes again in judgment.

Presently, men live in an Age of Grace. Men are beneficiaries of God's common grace (Mt 5:45) but when sinners are judged that benefit ends (Ge 6:3).

The Israelites had Moses' guidance as they passed through the Red Sea (1 Co 10:2). Not all of these men were necessarily saved—like today—though a man is baptized, his conversion may or may not be genuine. Jesus said that the true believer will be known by his fruits (Mt 7:20). Genuine conversion produces good fruits. Baptism without the Holy Spirit only gets one wet. With justification comes sanctification. If there is no sanctification then justification had not occurred (1 Co 10:2).

The apostle Paul's ministry was not one of baptism. Had he baptized many individuals, people could have charged that he was baptizing in his own name. His life gloried Christ not himself (Ro 2:6).

Infant baptism, as practiced by Roman Catholics, is not scriptural. A baby has not repented of his sins and turned to the Lord in faith. God has commanded all *men* everywhere to repent (Ac 17:30).

The thief on the cross had no time to be baptized; yet, Jesus assured him that he would be with him in paradise (Lk 23:43). Baptism is not necessary for salvation; rather, it is one's first act of obedience in the faith (Mt 28:19).

So-called good behavior does not commend us to God (1 Co 8:8). In fact, God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Ro 5:8, AKJV). When a believer is truly converted he becomes obedient to God (1 Sa 15:22). Grace is a higher—not lower—standard of faith (Mt 5-7).

In the Old Testament the Spirit would come and go. David wrote: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me (Ps 51:11). In the New Testament, the Spirit indwells the true believer (Ro 8:9–11) through faith (Eph 3:14–19).