

## **Baptism: Wash Away Your Sin by Calling on His Name Acts 16:1-22**

### **What did Paul need? (v.22)**

Paul, and all of us, need to be washed from the guilt of our sin against God.

### **How do we wash away our sins? (v.16)**

Not by making up for our sin by doing good — that's not how justice works.

The penalty — the punishment — must always be paid.

We wash away our sins by calling on the name of Jesus — who paid the penalty for sin by dying on the Cross.

### **What does this have to do with baptism? (v.16)**

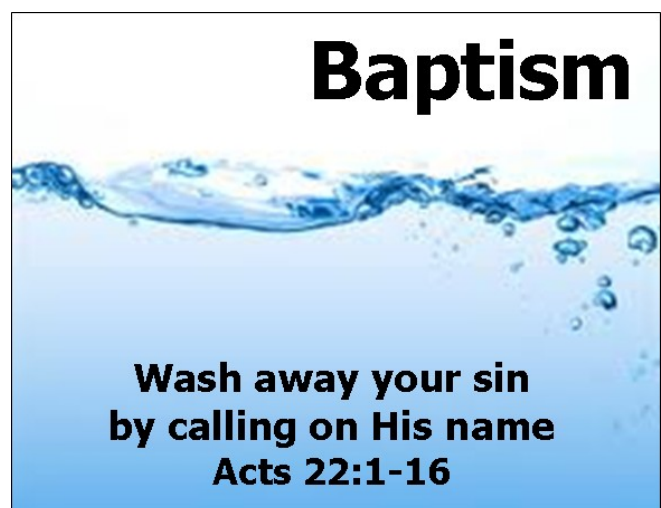
Sometimes baptism is the first time someone calls upon Jesus' name.

That's what happened with Paul. In that case baptism was the time he was washed clean from sin's guilt — not by baptism, but because during baptism he called upon Jesus' name.

Always baptism is a picture of what happens when someone calls on Jesus' name.

The moment you call on Jesus' name, you are washed clean from sin's guilt, whether you are baptized or not.

Then, when you obey Jesus and are baptized, that will publicly show what Jesus has already done for you.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Do you agree that you have sinned against God, and have been stained with guilt before Him — guilt that His justice demands be punished? Why or why not?

Have you ever thought you could wash away your guilt by doing enough good? Do you agree that this is not how justice works? Why or why not?

Does it make sense to you that we can wash away our guilt by calling on Jesus — the One whose death paid the penalty for our guilt? Why or why not?

Are you assured that you have called upon Jesus — and completely free from guilt? Why or why not?

Have you obeyed Jesus by being baptized? Why or why not?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

