

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## KEEP ON KEEPING ON

*John Edwards*

Paul told the Colossians, *“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister”* (Col. 1:23). There is a real need for folks today to keep on keeping on! Let’s take a look at this passage:

**IF.** The word *“if”* is a conditional word. Salvation is based on *“if”* (1 Cor. 15:1-2). If we do as this passage says, we will be saved; but if not, we will be lost. It’s that simple.

**YE.** The word *“ye”* places the responsibility upon each of us. It’s not the person next to you, but *“ye”*. Salvation is an individual affair. It’s like the Philippian jailor asked, *“What must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30).

**CONTINUE.** To continue is to keep on keeping on. There is never a time when we can give up. We must continue at a steady pace.

**IN THE FAITH.** The faith here refers to the gospel by which we are justified (Gal. 1:23; 1 Cor. 15:1-2). To continue in the faith is to keep on living as the gospel teaches.

**AND BE NOT MOVED AWAY.** We must be *“like a tree planted by the rivers of water”* (Ps. 1:3). Too many people are *“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine”* (Eph. 4:14). When we remain *“stedfast”* and *“unmoveable”* (1 Cor. 15:58), we have the hope that the gospel provides.

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## LEARNING ABOUT BAPTISM FROM ACTS 8

*John Edwards*

The work of Philip the evangelist as recorded in the eighth chapter of Acts provides us with some valuable lessons regarding Bible baptism. Please take time to read the chapter.

**FOLKS ARE FIRST TAUGHT, THEN BAPTIZED.** Acts 8:5 records, *“Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”* Acts 8:35 finds Philip preaching *“Jesus”* to the eunuch. Verse 12 is commentary on what it means to preach Christ: *“preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ”*. Folks must be properly taught to be properly baptized. This is as the Lord said in the giving of the Great Commission: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them”* (Mt. 28:19). The *“them”* refers to those who have been

taught. A person cannot be taught wrong and baptized right. This is one reason why denominational baptism is invalid.

**BAPTISM IS FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE.** We might ask, When were those in Samaria baptized? The answer: *“When they believed”* (Acts 8:12). The eunuch said, *“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest”* (Acts 8:36-37). It would do no good for a person to be baptized who does not believe. Mark 16:16 records, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”*.

**MEN AND WOMEN ARE SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM.** Acts 8:12 teaches, *“they were baptized, both men and women.”* We never read of infant baptism anywhere in the New Testament. Infants are not subjects of Bible baptism for they are without sin (Ezek. 18:20; Mt. 18:1-3). If you believe infants were baptized in New Testament days, please give us their names and their ages.

**IT’S POSSIBLE TO SIN AND FALL AWAY AFTER BAPTISM.** The doctrine of once saved, always saved holds no water. Simon was saved as he was baptized (Acts 8:13; Mk. 16:16). Soon after his conversion, he fell as his *“heart*

was not right in the sight of God” and he was “in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:21-23). If it is impossible to fall away after baptism, then why are we warned, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12)?

**THE ELEMENT IS WATER.** We learn by approved example that water is the element of baptism. The eunuch said, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?...they went down both into the water...And when they were come up out of the water” (Acts 8:36, 38-39). The fact that we only find water used in Bible baptism eliminates all other elements.

**A CONFESSION IS MADE BEFORE BAPTISM.** Acts 8:37 finds the eunuch confessing, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” before being baptized. Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 10:32). Instead of confessing their faith, in becoming a Christian, many are taught to confess their sins, or that Christ is their Savior, or that God for Christ’s sake has

pardoned their sins. A person simply was not baptized properly if he did not make the proper confession. Paul said the confession “is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:9-10). This makes the confession pretty important, does it not?

**THE ACTION OF BAPTISM IS IMMERSION.** Many today are given a choice as to whether they want to be immersed or just have water sprinkled or poured on them. I don’t see where Philip gave the eunuch a choice like that; do you? The eunuch was immersed as “they went down both into the water; both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water” (Acts 8:38-39). The action depicted here is immersion. Baptism requires a coming unto water, a going down into the water, and a coming up out of the water. Sprinkling or pouring does not fit. Thus, to have water sprinkled or poured over you, calling it baptism, is to just get wet.

**BAPTISM IS ACCOMPANIED BY GREAT JOY.** When Christ was preached in Samaria and folks heard,

believed and were baptized, “there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:8). When the eunuch was baptized, “he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). Why is baptism such a joyous occasion? One has “the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and is in Christ (Gal. 3:27), where he enjoys “all spiritual blessings” (Eph. 1:3) and has the “hope” (Titus 1:2) and “promise of eternal life” (1 Jn. 2:25; 5:11).

**BAPTISM IS A MATTER OF URGENCY.** The urgency of baptism is seen as the eunuch “commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water; both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:38). If there is not an urgent need for one to be baptized, why stop the chariot?

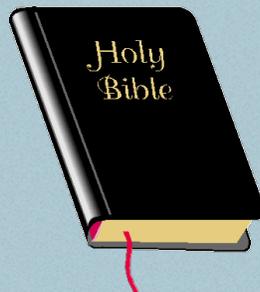
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