Baptism & Salvation

(appropriate for High Schoolers and older)
Michael R. Daily, April 2017

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The word "baptize" means "to submerge or immerse." When the Bible uses the word "baptize" it means that a person was completely immersed in something. For example, many of the New Testament passages using the word "baptism" are talking about being immersed in the Holy Spirit when we become Christians.

I Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This is a way of describing the fact that when we became Christians we were permanently washed, regenerated, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Romans 6:1-7

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that <u>all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.</u>

Water baptism is an outward symbol of our spiritual baptism into the body of Christ. Submersion under the water represents the death and burial of our old lives without Christ. Salvation and regeneration come when we receive and are baptized in the Holy Spirit at conversion, but water baptism is the outward expression of that event. Coming out of the water represents the beginning of a new life committed to obediently following Christ. It is a demonstration to other Christians that we will follow and obey Christ, and it is a critical step in revealing whether our faith is real or not. Why? Becoming a Christian means that you have changed your mind (repented) about who will decide how you will live your life. Since Jesus is now your Lord, you are saying that He knows how you should live your life better than you do, and you are going to follow and obey Him.

The first command Jesus gives all new Christians is to be baptized. So, if I don't do that I am saying, "I commit to following Christ", then I immediately say "no" to the first thing He tells me to do! If that happens then its clear that my profession of faith was not real. This is why baptism is so important. It reveals to ourselves and others what we really believe and protects us from self-deception.

Water baptism is easy enough that any new Christian can do it, but its difficult enough that most non-christians won't. It is also one of our first efforts to be a witness for Christ and it provides great encouragement to the church to see God working in other people's lives. In a nutshell, baptism engages the new Christian directly in Obedience to God's Word, Witnessing, and Fellowship – some of the foundations of the Christian faith.

Colossians 2:9-14

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; ¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Water baptism by immersion is the mode we see in the Bible because it is the better representation of death, burial, and resurrection to new life.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

However, baptism is not part of the salvation process. We are saved by faith and it has nothing to do with anything that we have done, which includes baptism.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Baptism Is Not a Salvation Requirement – It's an Obedience Issue!

I Corinthians 1:14

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

Why would Paul say this if baptism was required for salvation? He would be thanking God that none were saved except Crispus and Gaius!

I Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

If baptism was required for salvation then Paul would be saying, "Christ did not send me to bring salvation but to preach the gospel for some other reason" (note: the background of the passage is that groups of people were putting an inappropriate emphasis on who baptized them. Paul isn't against baptism, he is just trying to make a point that baptism does not replace salvation by grace, which comes from hearing the gospel).

I Corinthians 15:1-8

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

This is a detailed outline of the critical, most important elements of the gospel by which men are saved. Notice that there is no mention of baptism!

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" ⁴³ And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Jesus promised that the thief crucified next to Him would be in Paradise later that same day, but the thief was not baptized and had no way to get baptized. Therefore, baptism can't be a requirement for going to heaven.

Infant Baptism

If you believe that baptism is required to go to heaven you end up in some strange places. One place you end up is, baptizing new born babies. Why? Imagine you are the parent of a new born baby and you believe your child cannot go to heaven unless they are baptized. What happens if they were to die while still a baby? Your child would not be allowed into heaven and it would be the fault of you, the parent, because you did not baptize your child! That would be a parent's worst nightmare. So, you get that done and check that box off as soon as possible. That is why religions, such as the Catholic Church, baptize babies.

Note: There are a number of protestant churches who do infant baptism even though they do not believe that baptism is required for salvation. Then what would the purpose be? In these churches, infant baptism appears to be a cultural tradition that makes people feel better, but serves no doctrinal purpose. It is often explained to be a form of baby dedication or welcoming into the church community. Unfortunately, it also creates confusion in the minds of many people and distorts a true understanding of the purpose of baptism after conversion. It would be better to have a non-baptismal ceremony for babies and their families instead of confusing the issue of baptism. Because of this confusion, people often are not sure they should get baptized when they become Christians since they were baptized as an infant. The confusion results in fewer people getting baptized at conversion, causing them to miss out on the blessings and benefits of obedience that baptism provides to them and to other people (see the last paragraph on page 1).

Baptism for the Dead

Another strange place you end up is, baptism for the dead. This morning (April 2, 2017) I was reading my local newspaper and there was an article on how the Mormon Church is ramping up their efforts to have people get baptized for the dead. Why would people do that? Imagine that good old Uncle Harry died. Everyone knew Uncle Harry and he was a nice person but Uncle Harry never did get baptized. So, Uncle Harry is sitting just outside heaven and he can't get in because he was never baptized. Let's help out Uncle Harry and go down to the church and get baptized for him. Then he will be allowed into heaven!

Salvation comes through faith, by grace. There is nothing in the Bible that supports the need to complete a ritual action to enter heaven.

Baptism Soon After Becoming a Christian was Expected in the New Testament

Baptism is not unique to Christians. During Biblical times, changing religions was often signified by baptism. People joining the Jewish faith were often baptized, although its meaning was different than in Christian baptism. So, there was a cultural expectation that if you became a Christian, of course you would immediately be baptized.

Acts 9:17-18

So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

Acts 16:14-15

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:29-33

And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

Acts 18:8

Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

"The idea of an unbaptized Christian is simply not entertained in the New Testament." - F.F. Bruce

F. F. Bruce was a Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at the University of Manchester who supported the historical reliability of the New Testament. His first of 33 books, *New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (1943), was voted by *Christianity Today* in 2006 as one of the top 50 books which had most shaped the evangelical church.

This is why some scripture passages show a close link between salvation and baptism. It's not because it's a requirement of salvation (it's not) but because it's the first step of obedience God expects from a new Christian. But baptism is related to salvation in the sense that saying you want to become a follower of Christ and then immediately saying "no" to the first command God gives you is a strong indicator you didn't really mean it.

How to Interpret Verses That Seem To Indicate Baptism is Required for Salvation

There are four or five passages of scripture that people will sometimes point to as support for the idea that baptism is required for salvation. As we examine these scriptures we will need to understand the cultural context in order to properly interpret these passages. As stated previously, some form of baptism was a common cultural expectation during New Testament times for people changing their religion. Converts to Judaism were baptized as part of a ritual cleansing ceremony. John the Baptist also baptized people with a baptism of repentance from sin in preparation for the Savior who would soon be revealed, but its purpose and meaning was different than the baptism of a Christian convert.

(Acts 19:3-5)

And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

So culturally it would have been a common expectation in the society of New Testament Israel for a new Christian to immediately be baptized after conversion. This baptism, in addition to being an act of obedience to Christ, was an outward demonstration of saving faith.

However, the concept of baptism is not as familiar in many cultures as it was in New Testament Israel. So, what we see in the New Testament is the emerging of the action of immediately praying to receive Christ as a demonstration of saving faith, followed a little later by baptism.

Note that in the Book of Acts there are no examples of anyone praying to receive Christ! Why? Because everyone immediately submitted to baptism after conversion. Baptism provided the demonstration of faith that praying to receive Christ provides today. Also, the confusion created by infant baptism did not exist in the New Testament as it does today.

The concept of praying to receive Christ as Lord and Savior was a developing concept in the New Testament as the gospel message spread outside of Israel. Note that most of the verses we use today that talk about receiving Christ (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20) are in the books authored by John the Apostle. These are the last books in the Bible to have been written. So, as the gospel message spread out to the rest of the world, the concept of receiving Christ as Lord and Savior shows up in John's books.

According to John MacArthur the dates of when the New Testament books were written were:

James	A.D. 44-49
Galatians	A.D. 49-50
Matthew/Mark	A.D. 50-60
I Thessalonians	A.D. 51
II Thessalonians	A.D. 51-52
I Corinthians	A.D. 55
II Corinthians	A.D. 55-56
Romans	A.D. 56
Luke	A.D. 60-61
Ephesians/Philippians	A.D. 60-62
Philemon/Colossians	A.D. 60-62
Acts	A.D. 62
I Timothy/Titus	A.D. 62-64
l Peter	A.D. 64-65
II Timothy	A.D. 66-67
II Peter	A.D. 67-68
Hebrews	A.D. 67-69
Jude	A.D. 68-70
John	A.D. 80-90
I John / II John / III John	A.D. 90-95
Revelation	A.D. 94-96

https://www.gty.org/library/Questions/QA176/When-were-the-Bible-books-written

What all of this means is, we can use the idea of praying to receive Christ to better understand some of the problem passages related to conversions in the early New Testament church. Let's look at some verses that people use to argue that baptism is required for salvation. As we look at these verses ask yourself this question - if I replace "baptism" with "praying to receive Christ" does it make it easier to understand?

Acts 2:37-41

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

"Repent, and each of you pray to receive Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

"So then, those who had received his word prayed to receive Christ and that day there were added about 3,000 souls".

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

"He who has believed and has prayed to receive Christ shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned"

I Peter 3:21-22

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

"Corresponding to that, praying to receive Christ now saves you - "

Does praying to receive Christ save you? Actually, no. Just as getting baptized does not save you. You are saved by faith and that faith is demonstrated by a willingness to pray to receive Christ and a willingness to be baptized. The problem is, other people cannot see your faith, which is inside you. All they can see is your outward actions. As a result, from the viewpoint of an outside observer, they might describe what they are seeing as praying to receive Christ saves you, or getting baptized saves you – they might describe it that way since they can't actually see your faith – which is what really saves you.

Acts 22:12-16

"A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. ¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. ¹⁵ For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

"Now why do you delay? Get up and pray to receive Christ, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

Born of Water?

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

This verse is sometimes misinterpreted to mean that you must be baptized in water or you cannot enter God's kingdom. In reality, to be born of water means to be born physically. You may hear a pregnant woman that is starting the labor process say something like, "my water broke". This is because during a normal human birth there is a release of "water" which is really amniotic fluid. Everyone alive on the Earth was physically "born of water". So, Jesus is saying that in order for an adult to enter the kingdom of heaven, they must be physically born and then spiritually born again. Note: there are other passages that deal with the fact that unborn and very young children go to heaven if they die (see Appendix A).

Does this mean that if we prayed to receive Christ we don't have to get baptized?

No. Baptism is a command that God expects us to obey today.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

So, if you are a Christian and you have not been baptized yet, take care of that as soon as possible. And when you lead someone to Christ, get them baptized as soon as possible also.

Appendix A – Death of Unborn and New Born Infants

The Bible indicates that all babies and very young children go to heaven when they die. However, there is a time when a young child becomes accountable to God just like an adult, but we don't know exactly when that happens or if that age differs from person to person or not. Study the verses below for yourself on this topic.

Deuteronomy 1:35-39

'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, ³⁶ except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and to his sons I will give the land on which he has set foot, because he has followed the LORD fully.' ³⁷ The LORD was angry with me also on your account, saying, 'Not even you shall enter there. ³⁸ Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter there; encourage him, for he will cause Israel to inherit it. ³⁹ Moreover, your <u>little ones</u> who you said would become a prey, and your sons, <u>who this day have no knowledge of good or evil</u>, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.

Jeremiah 19:2-5

Then go out to the valley of Ben-hinnom, which is by the entrance of the potsherd gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you, ³ and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Behold I am about to bring a calamity upon this place, at which the ears of everyone that hears of it will tingle. ⁴ Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods, that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent ⁵ and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it ever enter My mind;

Ezekiel 16:21

You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.

Luke 18:15-16

And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they *began* rebuking them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them, saying, "<u>Permit the children to come to Me</u>, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Matthew 19:13-14

Then *some* children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, "<u>Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."</u>

Matthew 18:2-6

And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Ecclesiastes 6:3

If a man fathers a hundred *children* and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a *proper* burial, *then* I say, "Better the miscarriage than he,

Appendix B – Other Passages That Refer to Baptism

Matthew 3:11-15

"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

John 3:22-26

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized— 24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

John 4:1-3

Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

Acts 8:9-13

Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." 11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Acts 8:35-38

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Galatians 3:26-28

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: Baptism & Salvation

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 12:13, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 1:13-14 How does this passage relate to the theme?
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When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 6:1-7
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When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 2:9-14 How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8-9
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 23:39-43
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Mark 16:15-16, I Peter 3:21-22
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DAGGAGE FOR MEDITATION A 4 22 12 16
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 22:12-16
How does this passage relate to the theme?
• 8
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make
this passage a part of my Christian life?
hansan banna ar mil Aminaman ma.

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 3:5
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make
this passage a part of my Christian life?
this pussage a part of my emistian me.
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:18-20
How does this passage relate to the theme?
1 8
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
when I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or chancing me. Explain why.
Here will I ample this passage to me life in the coming week and is those anothing I can do to day to make
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make
this passage a part of my Christian life?
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 8:35-38
How does this passage relate to the theme?
The in the second processing of the streether.
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
when I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage of chancing time. Explain why.
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make
this passage a part of my Christian life?