



Talking Point Notes

Forgiveness of Sins

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This verse is commonly mistranslated for the purpose of promoting baptism as the effective cause of forgiveness of sins. The translations are worded in such a way as to imply that immersion in water was directed by Peter *in order that* their sins be forgiven; i.e., that the immersion in water is required for the forgiveness to occur.

The slight of hand is done first by choosing to translate the Greek word εἰς as ‘for’ in English, which is meant to be interpreted to mean, “for the purpose of.” But this is not what the Greek means in context. Literally, εἰς means ‘into’, and that is the best way to translate it here.

We see from studying other passages in Scripture, that one can be immersed into many things, not just forgiveness. We can be immersed into a name, a person, Messiah, a river, and even a body! In no case does it refer to the purpose of the immersion. Furthermore, not all immersions are in the medium of water! There is also fire! The purpose of the immersion into water is

to outwardly symbolise a change of status, not to effect it! Look at the following examples.

- Mark 1:9 immersed into the Jordan
- Acts 8:16 immersed into the name of Adonai Yeshua
- Acts 19:3 into the immersion of John
- Acts 19:5 immersed into the name of Adonai Yeshua
- Romans 6:3 immersed into Messiah Yeshua, immersed into his death
- 1 Corinthians 1:15 immersed into my name
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 immersed into one body
- Galatians 3:27 immersed into Messiah

Do these mean, “immersed for the purpose of the Jordan,” “immersed for the purpose of the name of Adonai Yeshua,” “immersed for the purpose of the immersion of John,” “immersed for the purpose of Messiah Yeshua, immersed for the purpose of his death,” “immersed for the purpose of my name,” “immersed for the purpose of one body,” or “immersed for the purpose of Messiah”? Of course not! Except for Acts 2:38 where there is a theological barrow to push!

Does all of this mean that we do not need to be immersed according to Yeshua’s commandment? Of course not! But it does mean that we do not need to worry about having a fatal accident on the way to the baptism ceremony!

