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A Message from
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Question: Does the Bible say what baptism is for?

Answer: Yes. Peter said in ***Acts 2:38,"Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins…"***

Our English word ***"for"*** has two different meanings: ***"in order to"*** and ***"because of".*** If I say I'm going to shop "for a new shirt" you know it's in order to get a new shirt, not because I already have one. If I say a man was put in jail "for stealing", you know he was put in jail because he stole, not in order to steal. The point is, in our language we have to determine what is meant by the context, or how it's used in a sentence.

However, the New Testament was not written in English, but Greek. And in the Greek language, there are two different words for our one English word ***"for"***. The one used in ***Acts 2:38*** means ***"in order to."***

It's the same word used in ***Matthew 26:28,*** where Jesus said His blood was shed ***"FOR the remission of sins."*** Can anyone doubt the meaning of the word ***"for"*** here? Jesus' blood wasn't shed because man's sins had already been remitted, but it was shed in order to remit those sins. This is also what ***"for remission of sins"*** means in ***Acts 2:38.***

Why would anyone say baptism has nothing to do with salvation? After all, Peter said, ***Repent AND be baptized…for the remission of sins…"*** So, whatever repentance is "for" in that verse, baptism is also "for". We don't repent because our sins have already been remitted, but in order to have them remitted. Language couldn't be any plainer. Baptism is ***"for the remission of sins",*** that is, in order to have our sins taken away.

--Steve McCaslin