

## BAPTISM #1

Shortly before the Lord left the apostles and ascended back to heaven, he gave them what we refer to as the great commission. One of the places where this is recorded is in Mark 16:15-16 which reads, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.’”

Here Jesus told the apostles to take the message of salvation to everyone. Their job was to proclaim the good news about the Son of God. It was then up to those who heard the truth about Christ to accept it and because of their faith be baptized. If they would do that, the Lord Himself said, they would be saved.

We also know from other Bible passages that people were taught to repent of their sins and to confess Jesus as the Christ in order to be saved. So even though they are not mentioned here we can see that these requirements would naturally follow faith and precede baptism. Since repentance involved a change of mind that resulted in a change of life it came about because of faith and was then made known through confessing Christ and being baptized. So to be saved we too must believe the gospel, repent, confess and be baptized. Only then can we truly become a Christian.