THE QUESTION

Did the early Christians believe sins are forgiven in baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 24 early Christian passages and 162 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-christians-believe-sins-are-forgiven-in-baptism

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. The early writers taught that in baptism God forgives all the sins a person committed before, washing away the old life. They tie this to faith, repentance and the Holy Spirit. They warn that the baptized should not sin again, and that later sins call for repentance and works of mercy, since baptism is given once.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

The water washes away earlier sins

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian opens his work on baptism by blessing the water that washes away the sins of our former blindness. Irenaeus, reading Naaman's healing as a sign, says we are cleansed from our old sins by the sacred water and the Lord's name.

1 “Blessed is our sacrament of water, because by washing away the sins of our earlier blindness, we are set free and welcomed into eternal life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 1 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Forgiveness of past sins for those who repent

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin says the apostles taught this reason for baptism. People who freely choose new birth and have repented receive in the water forgiveness of the sins they committed before, and God's name is spoken over them.

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3 “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Faith, the Spirit and water work together

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement says the baptized have wiped off the sins that darkened them, so the spirit's eye is full of light. The Treatise on Re-Baptism sums up the Gospel scenes of forgiveness: hearts are cleansed by faith, souls by the Spirit, and bodies by water.

4 “As, then, those who have shaken off sleep immediately become fully awake within; or rather, as those who try to remove a film over the eyes do not supply light to them from outside, which they do not possess, but by removing the obstacle from the eyes leave the pupil free; so also we who are baptized, having wiped off the sins that darken the light of the Divine Spirit, have the eye of the spirit free, unimpeded, and full of light.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 7, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

5 “From all these things it is shown that hearts are purified by faith, that souls are washed by the Spirit, that bodies are washed by water, and, moreover, that by blood we may more readily attain at once the rewards of salvation.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 24, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 4 OF 7

Only God forgives, unlike John's baptism

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says John's baptism was given by God's command but was a baptism of repentance, which is a human act. It did not give the Holy Spirit or remission of sins, because only God pardons sins and gives the Spirit.

6 "Otherwise, if it had been celestial, it would have given both the Holy Spirit and remission of sins. But no one either pardons sins or freely grants the Spirit except God only."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 10 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Cyprian ties forgiveness to the Church's baptism

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says forgiveness of sins is given in baptism, by those the Lord set over the Church. He argues from Christ breathing the Spirit on the apostles that only those who have the Holy Spirit can baptize and forgive sins.

7 "But it is clear where and by whom forgiveness of sins can be given: namely, in baptism."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 "Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the Holy Spirit."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 6 OF 7

The forgiven must not sin again

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In the Shepherd of Hermas, some teachers say the only repentance is the one when we go down into the water and are forgiven. The shepherd calls this sound teaching and adds that the forgiven person should live in purity. Clement of Alexandria repeats the same warning.

9 “Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into the water and receive forgiveness of our former sins.""

later in the same passage

“For the person who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore, but to live in purity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

10 “So, the person who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Later sins call for repentance and mercy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says baptism grants remission once for all, so later sins are met by steady works of mercy that bring God's mercy again. Clement says God in His mercy gives believers who fall a second repentance, but warns against repenting over and over without change.

11 “And because in baptism the remission of sins is granted once for all, steady and unceasing labor, following the likeness of baptism, again bestows the mercy of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›

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12 "Therefore, since He is very merciful, He has granted, in the case of those who, though in faith, fall into some transgression, a second repentance."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not explain how forgiveness in baptism works for infants.
- They do not fully settle how often sins after baptism can be forgiven; Hermas and Clement speak of one further repentance.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 24 early Christian passages and 162 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–24, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 25–113, in Bible order), then 73 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *24 passages from 13 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 1) "indeed descend into the water full of sins and defilement, but come up, bearing fruit in our heart, having the fear of God and trust in Jesus in our spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

2 *Shepherd* **Quote 9, page 5** "my questions." He said, "Go on." And I said, "Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *First Apology* (on point 2) How those who have sinned and repent shall escape their sins is… [continues online] **read ›**

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4 *First Apology* **Quote 3, page 3** “and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 5*

5 *To Autolycus* 16 (on point 2) “beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 6*

6 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* **Quote 2, page 2** “as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 7–9*

7 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 4, page 3** “is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Stromata* 2.13 **Quotes 10, 12, pages 5, 6** the person who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore. For besides the first and only repentance from sins, which is from the sins of the former… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Stromata* 2.15 (on point 7) “alms, then, and acts of faith, sins are purged… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *On Baptism* 10 **Quote 6, page 4** “same nature. Otherwise, if it had been celestial, it would have given both the Holy Spirit and remission of sins. But no one either pardons sins or freely grants the… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *On Baptism* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “is our sacrament of water, in that, by washing away the sins of our early blindness, we are set free and admitted into eternal life… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 12*

12 *Refutation of All Heresies* 36 (1885 English; on point 7) “by this (other baptism) they wickedly subvert those that remain with them in expectation of redemption, as if persons, after they had once been baptized, could again obtain remission… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 13*

13 *Commentary on John* 6 (1885 English; on point 2) “it is for forgiveness of sins that this washing is given… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 14–20*

14 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “because in baptism remission of sins is granted once for all, constant and ceaseless labour, following the likeness of baptism, once again bestows the mercy of God… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Epistles* **Quote 8, page 4** Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Epistles* (on point 5) and His God is rewarded by Christ, and receives forgiveness of sins and the sanctification of baptism! But by what power can the one who denies God the Creator, the… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Treatises* (1885 English) “and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Epistles* (on point 5) Or if they say that the power of baptism comes from the greatness of the name, so that those who are baptized anywhere and in any way, in the name… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “But it is manifest where and by whom remission of sins can be given… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Epistles* “that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration," Titus 3:5. But if regeneration is… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 21–22*

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) “Now this is blessed by the high priest for the remission of sins, and the first preparation for baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 23*

23 *Divine Institutes* 5 (1885 English; on point 1) “this takes place when man, purified in the heavenly laver, lays aside his infancy together with all the pollution of his past life, and having received an increase of divine… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 24*

24 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “this remission of sins that woman also which was a sinner in the city obtained, to whom the Lord said, Your sins are forgiven you… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *89 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

25 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

26 **Exodus 29:4** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness, and wash them with water. **read ›**

27 **Exodus 30:19** Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it. **read ›**

28 **Exodus 30:20** Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, and whenever they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord, they shall wash with water, and so they shall certainly not die. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 30:21** They shall wash their hands and their feet with water. Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die. It shall be a perpetual ordinance for them, for Aaron and for his generations after him.” **read ›**

30 **Exodus 40:12** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness and wash them with water. **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 4:20** He shall do with the calf just as he did with the calf of the sin offering; so it shall be done. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and the sin shall be forgiven them. **read ›**

32 **Leviticus 5:5** then he shall confess the sin concerning the things in which he has sinned by that sin. **read ›**

33 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

34 **Leviticus 8:6** Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. **read ›**

35 **Leviticus 13:25** the priest shall look at him, and behold, if the white hair has turned shining bright, and its appearance is lower than the skin, it is leprosy; it has broken out in the burn. The priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a plague of leprosy. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 13:58** And the garment, or the lengthwise threads, or the cross threads, or any article of skin that is washed and from which the plague departs, shall be washed a second time, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

37 **Leviticus 14:7** He shall sprinkle seven times on the one who has been cleansed from the leprosy, and he shall be clean; and he shall let the live bird go into the open field. **read ›**

38 **Leviticus 14:8** The one who is cleansed shall wash his garments, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but he shall stay outside his house seven days. **read ›**

39 **Leviticus 14:31** the one for a sin offering and the other for a whole burnt offering, with the sacrifice; and the priest shall make atonement for the one being cleansed before the Lord. **read ›**

40 **Leviticus 15:13** When the man with the discharge is cleansed of his discharge, seven days shall be counted for him for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

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41 **Leviticus 16:24** He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garment; then he shall go out and offer his whole burnt offering and the whole burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself, for his house, and for the people, as for the priests. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 16:26** The one who sends away the goat that was set apart for release shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 16:28** The one who burns them shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

44 **Leviticus 16:30** For on this day he shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord, and you shall be cleansed. **read ›**

45 **Leviticus 19:22** The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for the sin that he sinned, and the sin that he sinned shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

46 **Numbers 7:28** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

47 **Numbers 7:52** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

48 **Numbers 7:58** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

49 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

50 **Numbers 14:18** ‘The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.’ **read ›**

51 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now.” **read ›**

52 **Numbers 19:9** And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the young cow and put them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel; it is a water of sprinkling, a purification. **read ›**

53 **Numbers 19:17** And for the unclean they shall take some of the burnt ashes of the purification, and they shall pour running water over them into a vessel. **read ›**

54 **Numbers 19:18** And a man who is clean shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it on the house and on the furnishings and on the persons who are there, and on him who touched the human bone, or the slain, or the dead, or the tomb. **read ›**

55 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

56 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

57 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

58 **1 Samuel 15:25** Now, please take away my sin, and turn back with me, and I will worship the Lord your God.” **read ›**

59 **2 Kings 5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh shall return to you, and you shall be clean.” **read ›**

60 **2 Kings 5:14** So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha; and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. **read ›**

61 **2 Chronicles 7:14** and my people, on whom my name is called, are put to shame, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will be gracious to their sins, and I will heal their land. **read ›**

62 **Psalms 25:7** Do not remember the sins of my youth and my sins of ignorance; remember me according to your mercy, for your goodness’ sake, O Lord. (Septuagint Psalm 24:7 (Psalm 25:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Psalms 51:2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. (Septuagint Psalm 50:4 (Psalm 51:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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64 **Psalms 51:7** You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; you will wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Septuagint Psalm 50:9 (Psalm 51:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 1:18** And come, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like crimson, I will make them white as snow; and though they are like scarlet, I will make them white as wool. **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 44:22** For behold, I have wiped away your iniquities like a cloud, and your sin like thick darkness. Return to me, and I will redeem you. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 18:13** Therefore thus says the Lord: Ask now among the nations, who has heard such very dreadful things as the virgin of Israel has done? **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 24:7** And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with their whole heart. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 33:8** And I will cleanse them from all their unrighteous deeds by which they sinned against me, and I will never remember their sins by which they sinned against me and turned away from me. (Septuagint Jeremiah 40:8 (Jeremiah 33:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 50:4** In those days and at that time, the children of Israel will come, they and the children of Judah together; they will go walking and weeping, seeking the Lord their God. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:4 (Jeremiah 50:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 50:11** Because you rejoiced and boasted as you plundered my inheritance, because you leaped about like calves in the grass and butted like bulls, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:11 (Jeremiah 50:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

75 **Lamentations 1:13** Mem. From his height he has sent fire; into my bones he has brought it down; he has spread a net for my feet; he has turned me back; he has made me desolate, in pain all the day. **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 36:25** and I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be cleansed from all your uncleannesses and from all your idols, and I will cleanse you. **read ›**

77 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:7** as a rebuke for the decree to kill infants, you gave them abundant water beyond hope, **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:26** Do not be ashamed to confess your sins, and do not force the current of a river. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:10** Put away trespass, and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

88 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

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89 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 10:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

96 **Matthew 26:28** for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

97 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

98 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

99 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

100 **Luke 24:47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **read ›**

101 **Acts 1:16** “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

102 **Acts 1:18** Now this man acquired a field with the wages of unrighteousness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his intestines poured out. **read ›**

103 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

104 **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **read ›**

105 **Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **read ›**

106 **Acts 6:7** The word of God increased and the number of the disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem. A great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. **read ›**

107 **Acts 13:38** Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; **read ›**

108 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” **read ›**

109 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ **read ›**

110 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

111 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

112 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

113 **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *73 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 9:18

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Exodus 32:34
Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23
Psalms 18:26 · 110:4
Jeremiah 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8
Ezekiel 47:1
Matthew 3:7 · 3:11 · 9:2 · 9:29 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25
Mark 2:8 · 5:9 · 11:30
Luke 1:76 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 7:48 · 7:50 · 10:21 · 10:27 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 15:7 · 20:4
John 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:17 · 1:33 · 3:3 · 3:5 · 3:8 · 3:9 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 4:10 · 6:40 · 7:39 · 15:11 · 16:6 · 19:34 · 20:22
Acts 5:31 · 19:1
Romans 8:5
1 Corinthians 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20
2 Corinthians 1:21 · 5:5 · 6:16 · 7:1
Galatians 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7
Ephesians 4:5 · 5:8
1 Thessalonians 4:8
1 Timothy 2:11 · 6:11
Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16
1 John 3:9
Revelation 22:1

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early Christians believe sins are forgiven in baptism?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY