

**“That’s not what
God’s word
teaches...”**

**“Umm...baptism
doesn’t work like
that.”**

**“Then explain to me what
I Cor. 15:29 says then...”**

**“You can’t take a dead
person’s place in
baptism...”**

**“They are the one
who must obey...”**

What is the “baptism for the dead”?

I Cor. 15:29-32

- **Does the context seem to support this?**
 - **Broad context is about the resurrection of the dead**
 - **If taken as is, the text would seem to be teaching that this is true...**
- **But is this a Biblically supported concept?**

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I Cor. 15:29-32

- **Is this a Scriptural concept?**
 - **Mark 16:16 – Belief is required**
 - **Acts 2:38 – Repentance is required**
 - **Acts 22:16 – Baptism of the submissive person is required**
 - **II Cor. 5:10 – We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ**
- **No, this is not a Scriptural concept**

What is the “baptism for the dead”?

I Cor. 15:29-32

- **So, while the verse seems to teach this, it does not harmonize with the rest of the Gospel**
 - **One of two things is wrong:**
 - **Either our interpretation of previous passages is in error, or**
 - **The interpretation of the “baptism for the dead” concept is in error**
- **Let’s look at this a little closer...**

What is the “baptism for the dead”?

I Cor. 15:29-32

- **What is our immediate context?**
 - **V.12-19 – If Christ is not risen, our hope and faith are in vain**
 - **V.20-28 – Christ is risen, and provides hope for us to overcome death also**
 - **V.29-32 - ???**
 - **V.33-34 – Do not allow these to negatively influence you; make them aware of the truth**

What is the “baptism for the dead”?

I Cor. 15:29-32

- **What is the meaning? (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; I Pet. 3:21) – “For the dead” = Christ**
 - **V.29 – What will they do who are baptized (for, regarding) Christ, if He is not raised? What is the point of being baptized?**
 - **V.30 – Why do we present ourselves to be persecuted and killed for One who was never risen from the dead?**
 - **V.31-32 – Paul daily gives himself up to be persecuted; this being so, what profit is there for him to do this?**

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I Cor. 15:29-32

- **What is the meaning? (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; I Pet. 3:21) – “For the dead” = Us**
 - **V.29 – What hope is there for we who are baptized if we are dead with no hope of being raised? What is the point of being baptized?**
 - **V.30 – Why do we present ourselves to be persecuted and killed if we will never be raised?**
 - **V.31-32 – Paul daily gives himself up to be persecuted; this being so, what profit is there for him to do this?**

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I Cor. 15:29-32

- **How does this help me?**
 - **I can be better prepared to respond if this should come up from others**
 - **It reveals another aspect of I Cor. 15:58**
 - **My labor and work includes persecution...it is not in vain**