“Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16

***Baptizo***:

To dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge

To cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to bathe

Not to be confused with 911 ***bapto***.

“The clearest example that shows the meaning of **baptize** is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be ‘dipped’ (**bapto**) into boiling water and then “baptized (baptize) in the vinegar solution.

Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

When used in the NT, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. E.g. Mark 16:16 “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved’’. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! (Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989)