

B

BAPTISM

My First Step In Following Christ

Study #2

The subject of “baptism” is without doubt one of the most controversial of all Bible teachings. Different types of “churches” have varying modes of “baptism.” Some *sprinkle*, some *pour*, and some *immerse*. Some baptize infants; others baptize older children and/or adults. And there are groups which even “baptize” on behalf of those deceased. Then others tell us it is not an important thing and therefore practice no baptism at all.

History reveals that baptism has been the most divisive issue throughout the present age. Our Baptist forefathers paid dearly for their stand upon the Bible truth of baptism. Millions

were cruelly put to death just because they refused to have their children

“sprinkled,” or dared to stand upon the teachings of God’s Word. We do not have

Lesson Overview

- I. What Is Baptism?
- II. Who Should Be Baptized?
- III. Does Baptism Accomplish Salvation?
- IV. What Does Baptism Mean?
- V. What Does Baptism Make Me?
- VI. Who Has The Authority To Baptize?
- VII. Why Should I Be Baptized?
- VIII. What Do I Do To Prepare For Baptism?



to face such persecution today – but we ought to be willing to take the same stand upon the truth of the Bible.

You can learn the truth by carefully studying the following Scriptures. Set aside any preconceived notions and see exactly what the Bible teaches.

I. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

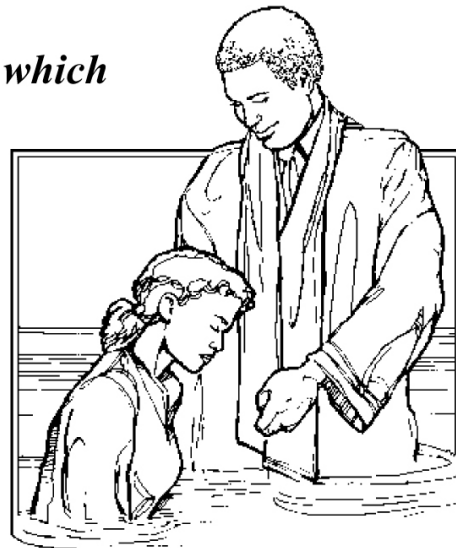
A. How many kinds of Scriptural baptisms are there? Ephesians 4:5 _____

B. What is baptism called in Colossians 2:12? B_____

C. According to Romans 6:4, we are B_____ in the likeness of Christ’s death by baptism.

D. Romans 6:5 tells us that baptism pictures a P_____

E. In your understanding, which action most accurately pictures a burial, or a planting: immersion or sprinkling?



F. In Matthew 3:6, where did John the Baptist baptize?

G. From John 3:23, what was John the Baptist’s reason for baptizing at a place called Aenon?

H. *What does your answer to “G.” say about the method of baptizing?* _____

I. *In Mark 1:10, when Jesus was baptized, what did He come up out of?* _____

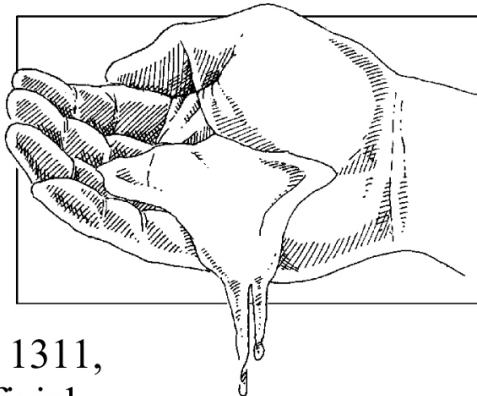
J. *Look up Acts 8:38-39. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian, what was the relationship of both men to the water?* _____

K. *From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what do you conclude to be the mode of baptism? (Check one)*

- Sprinkling
- Pouring
- Immersion

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:

1. The Greek word rendered *baptize* in your Bible is “baptidzo.” The meaning of *baptidzo* is “dip, plunge, immerse, submerge, overwhelm.” ALL reputable Greek scholars (Catholic, Protestant, and Baptist) agree on this point.
2. Pope Stephen II declared the practice of “pouring” for baptism was valid in the case of sick candidates in the year AD 754. The Roman Catholic Council of Ravenna, in AD 1311, gave the first official



sanction of sprinkling. Prior to these times, immersion was the mode of baptism. In some Roman Catholic circles, immersion was still practiced as late as the 18th century.

II. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- A.** *According to Matthew 3:7-8, what did John the Baptist require from people BEFORE he would baptize them? _____*
- B.** *Look up John 4:1. What does the relationship between the words “made” and “baptized” show concerning whom should be baptized? _____*
- C.** *In Acts 2:41, what had those who were first baptized done? _____*
- D.** *In Acts 8:12, what had the men and women who were baptized first done? _____*
- E.** *In Acts 8:37, what was the requirement for the Ethiopian’s baptism? _____*
- F.** *Look up Acts 10:47. A person receives the Holy Spirit at salvation. What does a person do after receiving the Holy Spirit? _____*
- G.** *Look up Acts 16:14-15. What had the Lord done with Lydia before she was baptized? _____*

H. Study Acts 16:30-34. What happened to the keeper of the prison and his household before they were baptized? _____

I. List the three steps of the Corinthians given in Acts 18:8.

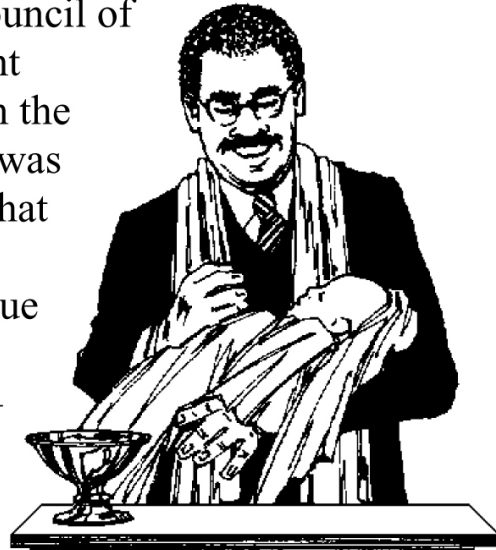
H _____, B _____ and B _____

J. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, whom do you conclude to be the proper candidates for baptism? (Check one)

- Babies
- Believers
- Any sincere person

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:

1. There is NO evidence of “infant baptism” to be found in the first couple of centuries in church history. The first recorded instance of “infant baptism” was when the Roman Emperor Valens insisted his dying son be “baptized” – in the year AD 370.
2. The Catholic Council of Mela made infant baptism “law” in the year AD 416. It was from this point that the intense persecution of true believers began to be practiced – by other “Christians.”



III. DOES BAPTISM ACCOMPLISH SALVATION?

Many people believe (and are taught) that baptism is a Sacrament – that is, a “means of God’s grace,” a channel through which our salvation comes.

- A. *Look up Ephesians 2:8. What is the channel of God’s saving grace? “. . . by grace are ye saved through F__ __ __ __”*
- B. *What are we NOT saved by? (Ephesians 2:9) “. . . Not of W__ __ __ __ , lest any man should boast.”*
- C. *Compare Titus 3:5, Ephesians 5:26; and John 17:17. How are our sins “washed away?”*
-
- D. *Read Luke 23:32-33, 39-43. One thief was saved. Was he ever baptized? _____*
- E. *From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what part does baptism play in your salvation? (Check one)*
- No part
 - Some part
 - Absolutely essential

IV. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

- A. *Look up 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.*
1. What does Paul declare here?
The G__ __ __ __ (verse 1)
 2. Where does he ask them to keep it?
In M__ __ __ __ (verse 2)

3. What is the Gospel? “Christ D_____ for our sins, was B_____, and R_____ A_____ (verses 3-4).”

B. *According to Romans 6:5, baptism is called the L_____ of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

C. *In 1 Peter 3:21, baptism is called the L_____ F_____.*

(Carefully read this verse. It does not teach that baptism saves anyone; it is that which baptism pictures that saves. Baptism is the answer or the response of a good conscience. We receive a good conscience before God when we are saved!)

D. *From your study and consideration of these verses of Scripture, what would you say baptism is? (Check one)*

- A symbol of the Gospel
- The washing away of sins

V. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MAKE ME?

A. *Baptism does not make you a Christian.*

We have already seen that baptism plays no part in our salvation. A person is Scripturally baptized *AFTER* salvation, not before it.

B. *Baptism makes you a church member.*

Look up Acts 2:41-42. List the order of events.

- R_____ (His Word) = Salvation
- B_____ = Baptism
- A_____ unto them = Church Membership
- C_____ steadfastly = Christian Growth

1. According to John 3:3-5 the “new birth” is the *doorway* to eternal life. According to Acts 2:41 baptism (which follows salvation) is the *doorway* in the membership of a church (a body of baptized believers).
2. When you are baptized, you become a member of our church. As such, you enjoy the rights and privileges of membership which include:
 - a. Participation at the Lord’s table for the observance of the Lord’s Supper.
 - b. Participation in church business meetings.
 - c. Opportunities to effectively serve the Lord through His church here.
3. As a Baptist you may be interested in knowing the following:
 - a. The name “Baptist” is a Biblical name.
It is found 14 times in the New Testament, referring to John the Baptist. According to Matthew 3:1 John was called a Baptist before he ever baptized anyone. It is a God-given name. (He wasn’t called “John the Catholic” or “John the Episcopalian.”)
 - b. Christ honored John the Baptist. See Matthew 11:11. Thus the name “Baptist” is one we can bear unashamedly.
 - c. All the apostles received Baptist baptism. This was never repudiated – it was a requirement for the selection of a new apostle to replace Judas Iscariot (see Acts 1:22).

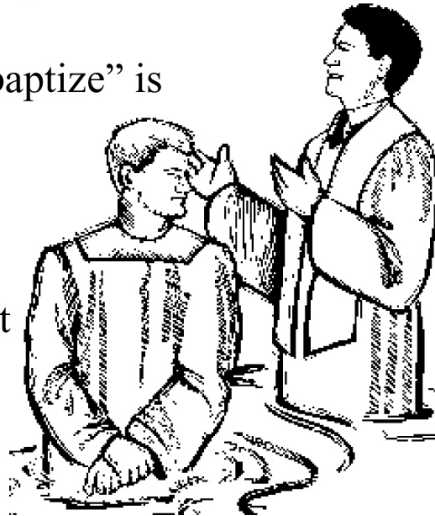
VI. WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

A. *The authority to baptize was given to New Testament churches.*

Just before our Lord ascended back to Heaven, He left “orders” for His work to be continued. These orders are given in Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; and Acts 1:8.

The Lord spoke these words to His disciples. However, if He gave this commission only to the disciples currently present, then it no longer applies – because they are long dead! The Lord Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to His disciples INSTITUTIONALLY – not individually. That is, the command to go, preach, baptize, and teach all nations was given to His Church. The disciples comprised the first church.

Since the command to “baptize” is contained in the Great Commission, then the authority to baptize has been given to New Testament churches – not to individuals or man-made religious organizations.



The Lord Jesus walked 60 miles (from Galilee, where there was plenty of water, to Judea) to receive baptism from the right authority (John the Baptist). He obviously considered the authority in baptism to be important. It is just as important today.

B. *There are four requirements for baptism to be scriptural:*

- THE RIGHT CANDIDATE – a believer
- THE RIGHT MODE – immersion
- THE RIGHT MEANING – a picture
- THE RIGHT AUTHORITY – a New Testament church

All those who are baptized into this church are baptized on the authority of this church. Even though the pastor actually performs the act, he does so on behalf of the church body.

That is why . . .

1. All those desiring baptism are presented before the church members, and the church votes to receive them into membership upon their baptism.
2. The church receives members from other New Testament churches of like faith and order by way of a “Letter of Commendation.”
3. The church does not receive into membership those who have been “baptized” into some man-made religion, “church,” or denomination. We require Scriptural baptism.

VII. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Some people do not hold great importance to baptism – seeing it as either unnecessary, or an “option” of being a Christian. On the other hand, the Word of God places great emphasis upon the ordinance. The Biblical “symbol” of Christianity is baptism...

Not the cross 

Not the fish 

These later became identifying symbols of Christianity. They are good symbols, but they do not replace the one God gave – baptism.

Here are some reasons why you should be baptized:

A. *The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17).*

1. He came from G_____ to J_____ (60 miles) to receive baptism (verse 13). It was important to the Son of God to get baptized.
2. Jesus said baptism B_____ us (verse 15). That is, “it is fitting.”
3. God the Father was well P_____ when God the Son was baptized (verse 17).
4. By baptism we are figuratively buried with H____, that is, we associate with Christ when following Him in baptism (Rom. 6:4).

B. *Baptism is a command from the Lord (Matthew 28:19).*

As noted previously, the command to baptize was given to the Lord’s churches – thus it follows that those who are won to Christ have a duty to be baptized. Write out John 14:15. _____

C. *Baptism is the Bible way.*

1. Look up Acts 2:38. Here the command is for E_____ O_____ of you to be baptized.

2. Acts 8:12 includes both M___ and W___ in the act of baptism.

D. All Christians are exhorted to be faithful in church attendance.

We read of this command in Hebrews 10:25. Can we properly follow this command and not be a member of a New Testament church, and not be baptized? No.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED:

Be sure to record the date of your baptism at the very beginning of these lessons. Write it (along with the date of your salvation) in your Bible.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED:

1. Write out the question the Ethiopian asked of Philip in the last part of Acts 8:36.

2. In your own words, and in your own situation, answer this question.

3. Why not decide now to obey the Lord?

“Having studied the Scriptures concerning the subject of baptism, and realizing this step is required of me by the Lord, I hereby determine by the grace of God that I will present myself for baptism by coming forward during the invitation at the next service of the church, thus publicly associating myself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and committing myself to active membership in this church.”

Signed: _____ Date: _____

VIII. WHAT DO I DO TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM?

“Okay, I’ll get baptized!! What do I do?”

Follow these simple steps:

- Come down the aisle during the invitation at the close of the service. I will meet you there, and we can tell Pastor what you have come for.
- Pastor will lead the church to accept you into its membership upon your baptism.
- Your baptism will be scheduled on a Sunday morning at your convenience (schedule it now). Many people use this event as an opportunity to invite unsaved family and friends. They will hear the gospel presented. Perhaps they also will receive Christ as Savior.
- Bring a change of clothes to be baptized in. Ladies will not need a change of *outer* garments because a special robe is provided. Towels are provided. The ladies’ dressing room has hair dryers.
- When you arrive to church on the day of your baptism I will go with you to the dressing room to leave your bag of clothes.
- During the first verse of the invitation, go to the dressing room and prepare for baptism. A church member will be at the dressing room to answer your questions and help you in any way.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- Read your C Lesson (Church) and answer all the questions. Look up the lesson’s Bible references in God’s Word.

- Continue reading the Gospel of John *at your own pace*. If you have any questions as you read, write them in the note-taking section of your *Spiritual Journal*. Ask your Discippler to answer them during your next session.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week. If you have questions about the sermon, be sure to write them down. You can ask your Discippler about them during your next session.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, C Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Discipler Report Back

B

I met with _____ on
_____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You