

Baptism



Memory Verses

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



What is “Baptism”?

🎯 “Baptism” is a symbol of the Believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, & resurrection.

There are many different beliefs about baptism:

- Some believe there is no salvation if there is no water baptism.
- Some baptize infants.
- Others baptize only adults.
- For some, water baptism is entirely symbolic.
- Some focus on a baptism of the Spirit and make it an experience completely separate from salvation.



It is very important to understand what the Bible teaches about baptism.

Half of all references to baptism in the Bible are found in the Gospels...

➡ Jesus Himself was baptized

- But, His baptism was different from Believer's baptism as it was an anointing that marked the beginning of His ministry on earth.

➡ John the Baptist baptized Israelites

- But, although John's baptism resembled Believer's baptism in that it had the prerequisite of repentance, it was still different because it was a preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the future baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; cf. John 1:32-33) into the body of Christ (Romans 6:3 + Galatians 3:27).
- When those who were baptized with John's baptism, heard that the Messiah had come they placed their faith in Jesus and then were baptized in Jesus name (Acts 18:24-26 + Acts 19:1-5).



What is “Believers Baptism”?

For an understanding of “Believer's Baptism”, one must study the New Testament a literal & *dispensational interpretation of these Scriptures will show...

➡ Water baptism by immersion is entirely symbolic, serving as a public testimony of one's salvation.

➡ Water baptism by immersion also serves as an illustration of the baptism performed by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ

* Dispensation...

A particular way that God administers His rule over the world (or over only one people group or segment of mankind) as He works out His purpose for world history.



What does the word “Baptism” mean?

🔑 “Baptism” is a *transliteration of a Greek word, “Baptizo”.

→ In the Scriptures the Greek word for “baptism” is, “Baptizo” which

means, “to immerse or submerge an object into something else such as a liquid like water or dye.”

* Transliteration transfers the spelling of a word from the alphabet of one language into the alphabet of another language. Thus the Greek word “Baptizo” becomes the English word “baptism.”

→ In each case where the word “Baptizo” or any of its forms is found in the Bible, it would be appropriate to substitute the word “immerse” as an English translation of the Greek word.

→ God chose to use the word “Baptizo” in the Bible because the *action* of immersing describes the spiritual relationship of a believer to Jesus Christ.



What does “Baptism” illustrate?

“Water” Baptism...

➡ Illustrates a Believer being placed into the body of Christ.



Because this is a permanent relationship and God did not want people left under the water permanently, He also provided, in His infinite wisdom, a second symbol in water baptism.

➡ Illustrates being placed into the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ.



As a Believer goes under the water, he shows that he is part of the body of Christ and as such has participated in Christ’s death and burial. When the Believer comes up out of the water, he shows that he is a full partner in the resurrection and is now walking in the hope of that resurrection in newness of life.

➡ Gives a Believer the opportunity to openly declare his identity with Christ.



If a person is not willing to be baptized into water, it is reasonable to wonder how real his relationship is with Christ.



This symbolic act to state publicly that what he professes with his mouth is possessed in his heart.

➡ A person may be baptized into water only after a person has received Christ as Savior. (Acts 2:38,41, Acts 8:12,36, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 18:8)

➡ Immersion is the only mode of baptism.



The Greek word “baptism” means to immerse. It never means to pour or sprinkle.

- The Greek word which means “to pour” is “cheo.”

- The Greek word which means “to sprinkle” is “rantidzo.”

- God used the word “baptizo” which means only “to immerse.”



Pouring & sprinkling does not fulfill the symbolism associated with baptism.



Who should be Baptized?

➔ Only those who have received Christ as their Savior by grace through faith alone should be baptized into water.



This eliminates infants, since they cannot believe.

⚠ Caution should be used in baptizing young children who have made a profession of faith. While children are capable of truly understanding the Gospel and genuinely receiving Christ at very young ages, it is better to wait until it can be established that they understand the symbolism involved in water baptism. Baptizing them too soon may confuse them and make them think that the water had something to do with their salvation.



What is the Holy Spirit's role in Baptism?



When a person receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, the Holy Spirit instantly immerses that believer into the body of Christ and the immersion into water symbolizes that event.

(Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27)

➔ Romans 6:3 states that when a person is immersed into Christ, he is also immersed into His death. This means that when a believer is part of the spiritual body of Christ he is considered by God to have participated with Christ in His death on the cross.

➔ Romans 6:4 explains that the *effect* of immersion into the death of Christ is a participation in the resurrection of Christ, enabling a Christian to walk in newness of life here on earth.



Baptism into the body of Christ takes place at exactly the same time of salvation.



It is not an experience following salvation.



It is not a second blessing.

NB!

Scripture never applies the term "Baptism" to the "indwelling of the Holy Spirit."

In that wonderful moment, when a person confesses his sinfulness to God, believes the Gospel of Christ in his heart, and prayerfully receives Christ, there are many things that happen to him.

- ➔ God forgives him for his sins
- ➔ Declares him to be justified
- ➔ Regenerates him
- ➔ Bestows eternal life upon him
- ➔ Indwells him by His Holy Spirit
- ➔ Seals him unto the day of the rapture/resurrection event
- ➔ Immerses him into the body of Christ.

Lesson #6



What is the key reason why God instructs the Believer to be baptized?



What are the purposes for baptism found in Romans 6:3-4?



In Acts 8:36-37, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill one requirement before he could be baptized. What was that one requirement?



How do we know that the Ethiopian eunuch was not baptized by sprinkling of water? Acts 8:38-39



Baptism by complete immersion in water is a picture of what?



Is Baptism essential for salvation? _____

Prove your answer with a Scripture reference. _____