

Baptism

Introduction

The subject of baptism is misunderstood by many religious leaders and religious organizations in our world today. Some pastors tell their congregations that baptism is required in order to be saved. Some “churches” baptize babies. Some “churches” sprinkle water on the head and call that baptism. All of these teachings and practices have served to confuse the average church member about baptism. As we study the topic of baptism, let’s remember that God’s Word, the Bible, is our final authority for what we believe. The traditions of man that contradict the plain teaching of the Bible are wrong.

Let’s look at what the Bible clearly teaches about baptism. Here are some questions that our study will answer.

- I. What is baptism?
- II. Who is to be baptized?
- III. Why should we be baptized?
- IV. When should a person be baptized?
- V. What is the proper mode of baptism?
- VI. Is baptism necessary for salvation?

I. What is Baptism?

We will answer this question by studying some verses concerning baptism.

1. Colossians 2:12

According to this verse baptism is a b _ _ i a l.

2. Romans 6:4

According to this verse, we are b _ _ _ _ _ in the likeness of Christ's death by baptism.

3. Romans 6:5

This verse is teaching us that baptism is a l _ _ _ _ _ ss of his death and a l _ _ _ _ _ ss of his resurrection.

From these verses that we just read, we can conclude that baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Who is to be baptized?

In order to answer this question, let's study these Bible verses.

1. Acts 2:41

What had those that were baptized done first?

2. Acts 8:12

What did the men and women do before they were baptized? _____

3. Acts 8:37

What was required of the Eunuch in order for him to be baptized? _____

4. Acts 16:30-34

What had the keeper of the prison heard before he was baptized? _____

5. Acts 18:8

The Corinthians h _____ g, b _____ d, and were b _____ d.

In conclusion, from the scriptures that we have just studied, we can conclude that those that are to be baptized are hearers of the word of God who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Why should we be baptized?

We place a lot of importance on baptism. Why?

What is so important about being baptized?

1. Matthew 3:13-17

In this passage _____ was baptized. He is our Lord and Saviour, and also our example.

2. Matthew 28:19,20

We as believers and disciples of Christ have a duty to _____ others. Therefore, it only makes sense that new believers have a duty to be baptized.

3. Acts 10:48

Peter had preached the gospel to a group of people. They received his preaching by faith, and Peter _____ them to be _____.

In answering the previous question, “What is Baptism?” and with these verses that we just read, we have already studied many verses where many people were baptized. Therefore, there is a clear scriptural pattern for being baptized. It is the Bible way.

In conclusion, we have learned that we should be baptized for the following three reasons:

1. Jesus, our example, was baptized.
2. We are commanded to be baptized.
3. It is the Bible way.

IV. When should a person be baptized?

1. Acts 2:41

These believers were baptized the same ___ that they were saved.

2. Acts 8:35-39

Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch; the man believed on Christ and was _____ all in the same day.

3. Acts 16:30-34

The keeper of the prison was saved and _____ in the same night. In reference to his baptism, the Bible uses the word “straightway” which means immediately.

In conclusion, it is evident from the scriptures that _____ is to be performed after salvation and not before. Furthermore, _____ should be performed as soon after salvation as possible.

V. What is the proper mode of baptism?

Some churches practice sprinkling, where a little bit of water is placed on the head. Some churches practice baptism by pouring water over a person’s head. Lastly, some churches practice baptism by completely immersing the believer in water. Which one is right? Are they all acceptable?

Let’s allow the Scriptures to teach us.

1. John 3:23

John was baptizing in Aenon (a river) for a reason. The reason was because there was _____ water there.

2. Mark 1:9,10

Remember Jesus is our example, and here He was baptized in a river called _____. We see that He came up _____ of the water. If He came out of the water then He must have first went into the water.

3. Romans 6:4, 5

As we studied earlier, _____ is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection.

In order for baptism to symbolize a burial, it would be necessary that a person be completely covered. Simply sprinkling or pouring water on top of someone's head would not symbolize a burial or a resurrection.

In conclusion, God did not give us His Word in English. He gave us the New Testament in the Greek language. The Greek word that is translated "baptized" means to immerse or to dip. The Bible clearly teaches that the proper mode of baptism is by immersion, not sprinkling or pouring.

VI. Is baptism necessary for salvation?

1. Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5

These verses clearly teach that we are not saved by _____. Baptism is a work. It has nothing to do with receiving the gift of eternal life.

2. Luke 23:39-43

These verses tell the story about the thief on the cross that asked Christ to remember him. Jesus promised the thief that he would be with him in paradise. This man was saved on the cross, and he had no opportunity to be baptized. Baptism is not a prerequisite of salvation.

In conclusion, is baptism required for salvation? No! However, though baptism is not required for salvation, it is something that God commands us to do. When we obey God, we please Him. In order for us to properly obey God, we need to perform baptism the way the Bible teaches it to be done.

REVIEW – Baptism

I. What is baptism?

- A. In baptism, we are buried in the _____ of the death of Christ.
- B. Baptism is a symbol of the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus Christ.

II. Who should be baptized?

- A. Is baptism for everyone, including infants? _____
- B. What does God require of a person before he can get baptized? _____

III. Why should we be baptized?

- A. _____, our example, was baptized.
- B. God _____ us to be baptized.

IV. When should a person be baptized?

- A. A person should be baptized after he gets _____, not before.
- B. In Acts 16, the Bible says the keeper of the prison was baptized straightway. What does that mean?

- C. We should get baptized as soon as possible after we are _____.

V. What is the proper mode of baptism?

- A. When Jesus was baptized, He came up _____ of the water.

B. What is baptism a picture of?

Does sprinkling water on someone properly picture that? _____

VI. Is baptism necessary for salvation?

A. Are we saved by works? ____ Is baptism a work? ____

B. Did the thief on the cross next to Jesus get baptized? ____

C. We please God by obeying Him; therefore it is very important for us to get _____. However, our _____ has no part in our salvation.

Assignment: Choose at least 2 of the following verses, memorize them, and say them to your teacher.

- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 2:41
- Acts 10:48
- Colossians 2:12

Application: What will you do based on the truth you learned in this lesson?

Your name: _____

Name of teacher: _____

Signature of teacher: _____

Date completed: _____