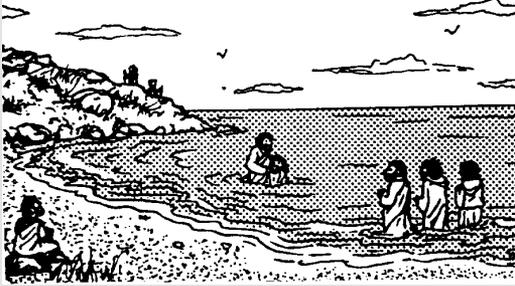


L*esson*
5

Baptism

Now that I am saved, where do I go from here?



Virtually all “religions” teach some form of baptism as a part of their doctrine. There are many different teachings on the subject of baptism.

What and who is right? It is important for you to know what the Bible teaches about baptism.

LESSON 5

This lesson is intended to show you what the Bible teaches about baptism. It may surprise you how clear and simple the Bible is on the subject.

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INTRODUCTION

It is essential that we understand the Bible's teaching on baptism. The teachings regarding baptism vary among different denominations and sects.

The teachings on baptism range from those who believe baptism imparts salvation to those who believe that baptism should no longer be practiced by the Church. Many believe that baptizing infants imparts or guarantees the infants' salvation.

Not only are there various teachings on baptism, but there are many methods of baptizing practiced by different denominations, such as sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.

We must learn what the Bible says so we can have a proper understanding of baptism. Not only is it important to understand baptism from a theological perspective, but it is important from a practical aspect as well. Once we know what the Bible teaches, we can do what God asks.

Acts 2:41a—“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized...”

DEFINITION

The word baptize comes from the Greek word baptizo meaning “to immerse, to put under, to place into completely.”

From the following passages, note the concept of baptism. Fill in the blanks.

1. Matthew 3:6— “and were baptized by him _____ the Jordan, confessing their sins.”
2. Matthew 3:16— “When He had been baptized, Jesus _____ of the water.”
3. Acts 8:36-39:
Verse 38— “...and both Philip and the eunuch went _____ the water and he baptized them.

Every instance of baptism in Scripture is seen going into the water or coming out of the water. **Baptism in Scripture is always total immersion in water.**

PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

Baptism has a distinct purpose.

It is a picture of our salvation and identification with Christ.

1. Salvation **ALWAYS** precedes baptism!
 - a According to Acts 2:41, who got baptized?

- b. Acts 8:12: What took place prior to baptism?

- c. In Acts 16:31-34, before his household was baptized what took place?

- d. In Acts 8:36-37, what was the one condition for this man to receive baptism?

There is NOT one example in Scripture of any individual who was ever baptized prior to salvation.

Salvation always comes first, then baptism.

- e. Knowing this from Scripture, please explain why infant baptism would then be wrong.



Discipleship—Baptism

2. Baptism **ALWAYS** pictures salvation.

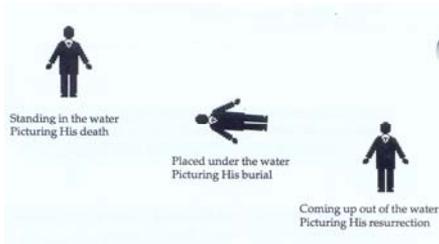
a. Look up I Corinthians 15:1-4. What are the 3 ingredients that make up the Gospel?

* _____

* _____

* _____

B. In Romans 6:3-4, what does baptism picture?



Baptism always pictures salvation. It is always done **AFTER** one is saved. It is **ALWAYS** a public declaration of what has taken place in one’s life. Single immersion in water is the only method of baptism that pictures salvation.

Martin Luther said: “Baptism is a Greek word and may be translated immersion. I would have those who are to be baptized to be altogether dipped in the water.”

John Calvin said: “The very word ‘baptism’ means to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the early Church.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Why is it important for us to be baptized?

1. In Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission of Jesus Christ Commands you to do three things:

a. Make disciples.

b. _____

c. Teaching them.



2. What is commanded in Acts 10:48?

3. If you are instructed to be baptized, what is it when you do what you are commanded to do?

CONCLUSION

Baptism is important because it is the first step of obedience in our new Christian life.

Read Acts 8: 27-39

The teaching of Scripture on baptism is clear. Now you may understand why we call it “believer’s baptism.”

As you seek to walk with God in your new Christian life, it is important that you **always obey God**. Baptism is that first major step. It identifies you as a Believer! It pictures your new relationship that you have with Jesus Christ.

NOTE: There is much false teaching among religious groups concerning baptism. From the biblical principles taught in this lesson, we should understand and be able to identify the following false teachings and why these teachings are not what the Scriptures teach.

The Bible does not teach that:

1. Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
2. Baptism by being sprinkled is just as meaningful as immersion.
3. Babies should be baptized into God's family or into "the Church."

Discipleship—Baptism

Having learned what the Scriptures teach with regard to believer's baptism, what should your response be?

Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.

Memory Verse
Acts 2:41

