

LESSON 4 WATER BAPTISM

Memory Verse: Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

1. Beginning your new life with obedience.
 - a. Taking the next step, now that I've accepted Jesus as Savior (Acts 2:37-38)
 - b. Water baptism is a command. Not a suggestion (Acts 10:48). Jesus said if you love Me keep my commandments (John 14:15)
 - c. The answer to a good conscience towards God (1 Peter 3:21)
 - d. Outward show of an inward change (Colossians 2:12).

2. Two meanings in the New Testament:
 - a. Ceremonial-this is where the saved person is baptized as a testimony of their salvation (1 Corinthians 1:14-16).
 - b. Mechanical-this is where a person or thing is introduced or placed into a new environment or union with something else, so as to alter its' condition or relationship to its' previous environment. (1 Corinthians 12:3 and Romans 6:3).

3. Water baptism: What's the controversy?
 - a. Does water baptism save you (or make you a Christian)?
 - 1) Examining the scriptures (Mark 16:15-16).
 - a) Doesn't the Bible say baptism is for the remission of sins? (Acts 2:38 with Acts 3:19 Mark 1:4, Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:3)
The word "unto" is translated "because of"
The word "for" is translated "because of", "by reason of", "on account of."
 - b) Becoming born-again is not accomplished by outward washing (1 Peter 3:21 & John 3:3, 16).
 - b. Does the Bible teach infant baptism?
 - 1) Baptism follows faith (Acts 2:41 and Acts 18:8).
 - a) But, Jesus blessed children (Mark 10: 13-16).

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- c. Must baptism be by submersion, or is sprinkling acceptable?
 - 1) The example of John the Baptist (Mark 1:5).
 - 2) The baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-10).
 - 3) Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-38).
- d. Do we baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; or in the name of Jesus Christ?
 - 1) Compare (Matthew 28:19) with (Acts 2:38).
 - a) We do believe in the Trinity!
 - b) But, we follow the New Testament pattern of baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3).
- 4. What is the main purpose of water baptism?
 - a. Identification with Christ (Romans 6:3-6).

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WORKSHEET

1. What reason did Jesus Himself give for being baptized? (Matthew 3:15)
To fulfill all righteousness (obedience to God, and God requires it).
2. Did Jesus go down into the water to be baptized (baptism by immersion)? (Matthew 3:16 and Mark 1:10) Yes...
3. What did Peter tell the people to do before being baptized? (Acts 2:38)
Repent – turn from your previous way of doing things. Change Hearts and Lives
4. What does Jesus expect people to do after being baptized? (Matthew 28:19-20)
Teach to obey the commands that you have received. Compel everyone make disciples of all men
5. How many people did Peter say should be baptized? (Acts 2:38)
Everybody/everyone that has repented
6. Name two ways in which believers spiritually identify with Christ when they are baptized. (Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12) buried dead to sin, risen to new life / Walk in newness of life + buried and risen through faith in the power of God
7. How does Paul say believers should live after being baptized? (Romans 6:4)
Walk in newness of life = abandoning our old ways (2 Cor 5:17)
8. Mention two pictures of water baptism found in the Old Testament, and referred to in the New Testament: (1) (Exodus 14:21-22/1 Corinthians 10:1-2) (2) (Genesis 7:5-7/1 Peter 3:20-21)
 1. Red sea crossing (Moses)
 2. The Flood (Noah)
9. According to Acts 10:48, baptism is a commandment, directive, rule, mitzvah

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Have you been baptized since you were saved?