

# UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19, 20**

# WATER BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## The Basis for Baptism

Our basis for baptism comes from how greatly the Bible stresses its importance. Jesus himself was baptized, setting an example for us to follow. We read in Matthew 3:13-17, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We see here that Jesus was baptized to "fulfil all righteousness" and after he was baptized we read that the Lord was pleased with him.

Since Jesus Christ commanded baptism and it is so important in the Bible so it must be important to every believer.

\* All the points below are correct and need to be studied to gain an understanding.

### I. Who is a candidate for baptism? Who is qualified to be baptised? Who should be baptised?

- A. Those that have been taught first (Matthew 28:19).
- B. Those that have had the gospel preached to them (Mark 16:15).
- C. Those that gladly receive the Word (Acts 2:41).
- D. Those that repent (Acts 2:38).
- E. Those that confess Christ to be the Son of God (Acts 8:36-38, Romans 10:10, 1Timothy 6:12, 13).

### II. What is the purpose of baptism? What does baptism accomplish? What is the result of baptism? For what reason is a person baptized?

- A. To be saved (Mark 16:16, 1Peter 3:21).
- B. For the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- C. To wash away sins (Acts 22:16).
- D. To acknowledge the death of Christ (Romans 6:3).
- E. To acknowledge being buried with Christ (Romans 6:4).
- F. To get into Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- G. To put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- H. To get into "one body" (1Corinthians 12:13).

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## III. **What is the act of baptism? What does it look like or require? How do you baptise?**

- A. By being in water and coming up out of water. (Mark 1:9,10)
- B. By being where “much water” is found. (John 3:23).
- C. By being buried “Covered” (Romans 6:4).
- D. By being “planted” (Romans 6:5)
- E. By being “raised” (Romans 6:4)
- F. By having our “bodies washed” (Hebrews 10:22)

## IV. **When should we be baptised? How long should one wait for actual baptism?**

- A. “Now” is the day of salvation (2Corinthians 6:2).
- B. After you “receive” the word (Acts 2:41). (Acts 16:32, 33).

## V. **BAPTISM IDENTIFIES US OPENLY WITH CHRIST**

- A. It is a public identification with the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross (v.3). When we are baptized, we are openly expressing our faith in the belief that Jesus died for us on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21).
- B. We are identified as becoming united with Jesus (v.5) . Notice Paul’s words, “Baptized into Christ”. This denotes the fact that we are in union with Christ.

## VI. **BAPTISM SHOWS THE IMPACT OF OUR SALVATION EXPERIENCE.**

- A. Baptism shows the Gospel message that Jesus died for our sins and rose again for our justification. (v. 4)
  - 1. Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).
  - 2. He arose so that we can be justified (Romans 4:25)” He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”
- B. Baptism shows that the believer has died to the old life of sin and has been raised to walk in a different life. (vss.6-7).
  - i The believer is a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).
  - ii The key to living the Christian life is to let Jesus live through you (Gal. 2:20).
- C. Baptism shows that the believer will one day live with Christ (v.8).
  - 1. When we are saved, we are guaranteed a home in heaven. (1 Thess. 4:13-17).

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## VII. BAPTISM DEMONSTRATES THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE.

- A. The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is eternally victorious over death and the grave.
1. Jesus defeated death and the grave forever. (Rev 1:18) "I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." (Heb 2:14) "Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.;"
- B. Jesus' one death was eternally sufficient for our sins (v.10).

## VIII. BAPTISM IS A CALL TO COMMITMENT FOR THE BELIEVER

1. You must commit to see yourself as "dead" to sin.  
(Gal 2:20) "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me..."
2. The choice must be made not to let sin have dominion over you.
3. Living like the rest of the world should be an unconscionable choice.  
(Romans 6:2) "Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?"

**Text: Acts 2:38**

The word "baptism" is derived from the Greek word "Baptizo" which simply means to "wash or plunge into water". Its original use was not a religious one. For example, a blacksmith, in order to cool an item he had been forging, would plunge it into water. The word used for that was "Baptizo" - baptized.

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## 1. Read Acts 2:38. These words are part of the first sermon preached in the early church.

a) What was the first thing Peter said one must do to become a believer in Christ?

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b) What must we do after repenting?

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c) What is the purpose of being baptised?

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d) How many people does this verse command to be baptised?

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e) How soon after hearing the gospel were they baptised?

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## 2. Read Acts 8:36-38. The story of Phillip.

a) How did Phillip baptise the Eunuch?

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b) Do you think Phillip completely immersed the Eunuch in water? Why?

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## 3. The Baptism of Jesus:

a) Read Mark 1:9-10. Was Jesus baptised in water?

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b) Matthew 28:19-20. What was Jesus' attitude towards us being baptised?

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# WATER BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## 4. Baptism and Us

Read Colossians 2:12. What does baptism represent?

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a) Romans 6:4 in what way is baptism by immersion similar to the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

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b) Do you think your life will be affected when you are baptised?

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## 5. Why should I be baptized? Read Romans 6:3-4

a) What are we baptized into if we are baptised into Jesus?

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b) Verse 4 says we are buried with him through baptism into his death. What do we gain from this?

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## 6. Read Romans 6:6

a) What is crucified through water baptism?

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b) Romans 6:8 What is the promise for us as believers if we die with Christ through water Baptism?

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## WATER BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

**7. Obedience to Christ - As believers we follow the example of Christ by being water baptised.**

a) In Acts 2:38 - was water baptism an option?

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b) Water Baptism is a command. What will cause us to be baptized? John 14:15

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**8. Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Circle the one you think is the most correct in each case:**

1. Baptism is:

- a) Only for some people
- b) For every believer
- c) An optional ceremony

2. Baptism is for:

- a) Little babies only
- b) Believers in Christ only
- c) Adults only

3. Baptism helps us to know:

- a) That our sins are forgiven
- b) That we are religious
- c) We understand the Christian faith

4. Baptism is by:

- a) Sprinkling
- b) Pouring
- c) Immersion

# WATER BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## CONCLUSION:

Now that you have repented and have been born again there is one more thing you're now ready to do.

What is it?

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## ON THE DAY: WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AND DO?

- Have a 2 minute word to present on the day explaining why you want to be baptized – Incorporate scripture.
- Invite Friends.
- Invite Relatives.
- Bring towels and a change of clothes.
- Baptismal gowns available if needed and requested.
- *Come dressed normally and get changed as directed in the middle of the service.*



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