

Series On Baptist Doctrine – Baptism

Text: Acts 8:12

I. WHAT BAPTISM IS

1. A word transliterated from the Greek ‘*baptizo*’, meaning to dip, immerse
a. Fifty reputable authoritative Greek lexicons or dictionaries give “immersion” as the basic meaning of ‘*baptizo*’.

2. Baptism is a burial

a. It reminds us of and symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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. ¶

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Rom. 6:3-5

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Col. 2:12

b. Baptism is a declaration that you personally believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again the third day; that you will be raised in the last day when the trump of God calls His children home.

c. Baptism is the expression of your desire to walk in the newness of the eternal life that God has given you.

d. Sprinkling or pouring water will not suffice to picture this. God commanded us to be completely buried under the water.

3. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God.

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: I Peter 3:21

2. WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT

a. Baptism is not a sacrament – The word “sacrament” implies saving grace. Baptism does not save.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Titus 3:5

b. God declares emphatically that we are saved by grace through faith in His Son. Grace is God’s unmerited favor.

c. Water cannot cleanse our sins. God tells us sin is cleansed only by the blood of Christ.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Col. 1:14

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Heb. 9:22

d. Baptism is not in any way essential for salvation of the soul.

3. WHAT BAPTISM REQUIRES

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. Mark 1:4-5

a. Proper authority – ‘John’

(1) You have to have the proper authority administering baptism.

(2) Pat Boone and other movie stars baptizing people in their swimming pools is a product of the apostasy of the age in which we live.

(3) Freelance baptizing of people is not found in the Bible.

(4) John the Baptist was the proper authority.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. John 1:6

(5) John recognized that.

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

John 1:33

(6) Jesus implied that authority when dealing with religionists in the temple.

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? ¶

And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Matt. 21:23-27

And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers

rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him. Luke 7:29-30

(7) *Jesus Himself walked a long distance to receive proper baptism. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?¶

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.¶

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matt. 3:13-17

(8) *So Scriptural baptism had Baptist authority from the beginning.*

(a) *But John would pass on – who would receive the authority?*

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

*And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***

Luke 1:16-17

(b) *How? By preaching and baptizing the converts.*

(c) *Submitting to his baptism made them Baptists.*

(d) *Who? Jesus, for one.*

(e) *Who else?*

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

...One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

John 1:35-37, 40-41

- **Andrew and Peter**

(f) *Who else?*

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

John 1:43-44

- Philip

- Notice Jesus didn't say to him, "Accept me as Saviour; believe on me."

- He said, 'Follow me.' – Philip was prepared.

(g) What were they prepared for, these and other children of Israel?

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor. Luke 6:12-16

(h) What is the definition of the New Testament Church? Who were its first members?

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. I Cor. 12:28

(i) All prepared by John the Baptist – that was his commissioned task from heaven.

(j) Every one of these named elsewhere in Scripture, when Jesus went by, He said, 'Follow me.'

(k) If they were all Baptists, what kind of church was it?

(l) The New Testament Baptist Church has the authority to baptize in the New Testament.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.¶ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt. 28:16-20

(m) Notice that the church was baptizing even while John was doing the same.

After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. ... When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) John 3:22-23; 4:1

b. Proper Mode – ‘..did baptize..’

(1) Immersion in water. Let's see this unquestionably in Scripture: *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matt. 3:16-17

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water; both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:38-39

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. John 3:23

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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.¶

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Rom. 6:3-5

(c). Proper Candidate – ‘.. And there went out unto him **all the land of Judaea, and **they** of Jerusalem, and were **all** baptized of him in the river of Jordan..’ Mark 1:5**

(1) Believers

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:41

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.¶

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?¶

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ¶

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ¶

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water; both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:29-39

(d). Proper Motive – ‘..confessing their sins.’ – Death to old self and identifying with Christ.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Rom. 6:3-6

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. 3:27

4. Difficult Passage Cleared Up – Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

(1) This passage has confused many but it need not if you compare Scripture with Scripture.

(2) Comparing this verse with its parallel in James clarifies the meaning.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¶

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his
son upon the altar?
Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made
perfect? James 2:17-22*