

BAPTISM

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Three things to be noticed in the Lord's instruction to his disciples when he sent them into the world:

1. Make disciples
2. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
3. Teach them to do everything Jesus commanded his disciples

Baptism means the identification with a person or a message or a group. It is a choice which the individual must make.

The two questions that every believer must ask concerning baptism:

1. What can baptism do for a person?
2. What is the meaning of baptism?

WHAT CAN BAPTISM DO FOR A PERSON?

Before the believer goes into the water, he must view baptism in advance and ask himself what can baptism do for him?

Example of baptism of Noah and his family

1 Peter 3:20-21 (KJV) - coming out of the flood and all friends are gone, new life starts with new family

²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

²¹ 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:

BAPTISM OF THE ISRAELIS IN THE RED SEA

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (KJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Believer's baptism simply means that a person is qualified for baptism only after he exercises faith.

Repentance must precede baptism

Acts 2:38 (KJV)

*³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Repentance must precede baptism. Repent from sin (meaning turning around from sin) and be baptized.

Receive the word and be baptized

Acts 2:41 (KJV)

⁴¹ *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

Only those who received Peter's word were baptized; the reception of the Word must come first.

Believe and be baptized

Acts 8:12 (KJV)

¹² *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.*

In this case, they believed, and then they were baptized; believing preceded their baptism.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

Baptism is not the way of salvation but it is an external testimony to the world that you are born again. It is like a birth certificate; new birth must take place before baptism. You must be born again before baptism.

Romans 6:3-6 (KJV)

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?* 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.* ⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:* ⁶ *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.*

In baptism, placing the believer into water is just as he has been placed by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. Furthermore, baptism pictures the death, burial, and Resurrection of the Messiah: going down into the water is a picture of death and burial; coming up out of the water is a picture of the Resurrection.

Colossians 2:12 (KJV)

¹² *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.*

Ephesians 4:3-6 (KJV)

³ *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* ⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ⁶ *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

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