



The Growing Christian

Study #2: Baptism

Basic Discipleship Course

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BAPTISM

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear Biblical teaching about baptism. The commandment to be baptized is very important for God and He desires that His children obey Him quickly from their heart.

1. There are specific reasons why God wants you to be baptized:
 - a. Baptism is the first act of obedience in your service to God.
 - b. Jesus gave us an example to follow. Jesus gives us his example of getting baptized before beginning his public ministry. Read Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; & Luke 3:21-22.
 - c. In Matthew 3:13-15, it is very clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. In verse 15, He says: "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." When it comes to baptism, obedience and submission are the most important things.
 - d. Other Biblical examples of people that submitted themselves to baptism after salvation are:
 - I. The Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8:36-39
 - II. The Apostle Paul. Acts 9:18
 - III. The prison keeper and all his family. Acts 16:25-33

2. The symbolic purpose of baptism:

The Bible mentions different types of baptism. Baptism through immersion is a symbolic act that teaches a spiritual truth. Romans 6:1-7 (especially verses 3-4) shows us the two symbols of baptism through water by immersion:

- a. It is a type of death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- b. It is a public testimony of the new believer that identifies himself with Jesus Christ through his death, burial, and resurrection. This identifies you with Christ and His life.

3. Who should get baptized?

- a. The clearest case of an individual's baptism through immersion in the Bible is that of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. In verse 36, the eunuch asks: "What hinders me from being baptized?" Philip answers him and tells him the requirement to be baptized: "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch's response is clear: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- b. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements of salvation, that are found in Romans 10:9-10:
 - I. A heart that believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
 - II. And confessing that He is Lord and Savior.
- c. There is no Biblical account of non believers being baptized, only believers.
- d. Other references about baptism immediately after salvation are:
 - I. Acts 8:12
 - II. Acts 18:8

4. How and where should you be baptized?

- a. In Matthew 3:16, we read that Jesus was baptized by immersion in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We should imitate Jesus in everything, including the way He was baptized.
- b. Acts 8:26-39 gives us the clearest example of the baptism of a believer. In verses 38-39, Phillip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and they came up out of the water (baptism through immersion).

5. Other important points about baptism:

- a. Baptism is not a requirement for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly states that man is saved by grace through faith, not by works; baptism is a work.
- b. It is necessary for service and spiritual growth. In Matthew 28:19-20 we read that it is a crucial part of the Great Commission.
- c. It serves as a public testimony of your faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is done in front of other Christians that serve as witnesses and could give you spiritual help. Many times baptisms are done in pools, beaches or any other body of water where the person could be submerged. The place is not as important, as the act in itself.

Overview

The Importance of Baptism

1) It is part of the commandment of the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

2) It is a great symbolism of passing from death to life:

Romans 6:4-5

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”.

3) It was a common practice of the church in the first **century**:

Acts 2:41

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them”.

4) It should be the first act of obedience after conversion:

Acts 8:12

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”

Acts 16:30-33

“And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized”. “One does not get baptized to be saved but because one is already saved”.

Review

1. Give the main reasons why God wants you to be baptized.

2. In Matthew 3:13-15, Jesus was baptized to show _____
to the Father.

Notes