

What Does the Bible Say About Baptism?

This study is designed to help you discover the basic teaching of the Word about baptism. Read the following verses about baptism and then answer the questions below.

John 3:22-26; 4:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20

1. What do these verses reveal to you about baptisms in Jesus' day?
2. Did the first followers of Jesus get baptized publicly or privately?
3. What did Jesus command His disciples to do to each new disciple?
4. What did He tell His disciples to teach each new disciple?

Read these Bible stories about some of the baptisms that took place in the New Testament and then answer the questions.

Acts 2:29-42; 8:27-39; 16:23-34 Baptism is for believers.

1. What was the message preached to people before getting baptized?
2. What decision do you see people making prior to getting baptized?
3. How soon did a person get baptized after becoming a believer?
4. Do you see any clues or hints about what type or mode of baptism the early church practiced; sprinkling or immersion?

Baptism is an external physical "picture" of an internal spiritual reality. The following verses explain some of the spiritual truths about baptism. Read the verses and then jot down the truths about baptism you see mentioned or pictured.

1. Galatians 3:26-28 Being baptized pictures believers becoming sons of God.

How do believers become sons of God?

2. Romans 6:1-23 Baptism pictures our dying with Jesus and being identified with His death, and resurrection. As a new person there is a new lifestyle for the believer.

What does verse 12-13 tell us should be the believer's response to sin?

3. 1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-18 The Spirit's work in believers is pictured in baptism.

What are believers baptized into?

Some churches teach a person must be baptized to be saved. That is NOT what the Bible teaches. The key question to ask is: "Do I get saved when I get baptized; or am I to be baptized because I am saved?" Think on this question as you carefully examine the following verses. Look to see what is directly stated as opposed to what is implied. After each verse answer the question and write down your summary of what the verse states about salvation and baptism. What do these verses say is needed for salvation?

1. **John 6:47; 20:30-31** What did Jesus say brings eternal life?
2. **Acts 16:31-34; Romans 10:9-10** What is required to become saved?
3. **1 Cor. 1:14-18; 15:1-9** Could Paul say God did not send him to baptize if baptism was a necessity for salvation?
4. **Acts 2:37-38** Did Peter reveal a step repentant sinners take because they are saved, or a step to take to get saved?
5. **1 Peter 3:18-22** Is it baptism that saves us, or the appeal to God?

Did you notice that in these and the other passages you read on the first page believing always preceded baptism? There are too many passages indicating that salvation comes by faith apart from any act or work of man to see baptism as an act required for salvation. Baptism is an important step of obedience which God commands every believer to take, but getting baptized doesn't save. Jesus saves all who trust in Him.

1. **Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 6:46** Why do you think it is important for us to be baptized?
2. **Matthew 7:24-25** What does Jesus say wise people will do?

Have YOU been baptized as an act of obedience and a testimony of your faith in Jesus?

When you have finished this study please call the church office and tell them. Revised 8.25.09