

## Bible Teachings on Baptism



by  
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Water baptism is something that many people do not fully understand. It has been (and still is) used by many churches, contrary to the Word of God, to further their own cause. By God's grace and His Word, we want to show you why baptism is necessary, who is a candidate for it, how it is to be administered, and what it will accomplish in the one who partakes of it the Bible way.

We see by the Scriptures that Jesus was about thirty years of age when He was baptized (Luke 3:21-23). Matthew 3:13 and 16 tells us why He was baptized: "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.... 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." Mark 16:16 tells us, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." So, you see, friend, we need to be baptized because God demands it, also to fulfill all righteousness, and we are to walk in the footsteps of our Savior.

Who is eligible, for baptism? Only those who have been born of the Spirit of God" (John 3:3-78) and are walking in all the knowledge they have of God and His Word. When John the Baptist was baptizing in the river Jordan, many of the religious people of that day came and wanted to be baptized also, but John told them in Matthew 3:7-8: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."

Baptizing babies is definitely contrary to Bible teachings, and here is why. God says we are to repent first and then be baptized (Acts 2:38). Babies cannot repent, and furthermore, they have nothing to repent of. Oh, how important it is to know God's Word and be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

How is baptism, to be administered? First of all, the word baptize means, "to fully wet or wash." This being the case, then sprinkling is wrong and pouring is wrong. The only correct way to baptize is by burying a person completely under the water. The Bible example for this is found in Acts 8:36-38. After Philip, a man of God, had talked to a certain man from Ethiopia about salvation through Jesus Christ as they were traveling on their way, the man said to Philip: "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."

What does baptism accomplish? First Peter 3:21 tells us, "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." According to the Bible, believers should be baptized after they are saved to symbolize that they have died to sin and the things of this old world and are resurrected to a new spiritual life in Christ Jesus. If you or I should be baptized for any other reason than what has been explained by the previous Scriptures, then we would be going contrary to what the Bible teaches on this subject.

Someone may say, "It's not really too important to be baptized, because the thief on the cross was never baptized and Jesus accepted him." This is true, friend, concerning the thief, but you must remember that he never had an opportunity to be baptized. However, you and I have that opportunity after we are saved.

We must always remember that baptism never has and never will wash away a person's sins, for the Bible tells us it is "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son [that] cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). In Matthew 28:19-20 after our Lord Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, we find Him giving instructions to His disciples in this manner: "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."