

BAPTISM *Matthew 3:13-17*

INTRODUCTION:

Baptism was Christ's first act of obedience in His public ministry. He has made it the first act of our Christian life and service in which we confess to the world, symbolically, what Christ has done for us in the salvation of our soul. It is also the act in which we profess before angels and men our dedication and submission to Him with the Father and Holy Spirit, and obligate ourselves to obey all things whatsoever He commands us.

Christ has made baptism to be the one and only way into His visible and local church. It's a duty He requires of everyone who has received the grace of His salvation – *Ephesians 3:21; 5:25*

Let it not be thought or said that biblical baptism is a matter of little or no importance; that it is a mere form and is not necessary.

While baptism is not necessary for our salvation it is vital to our obedience to Christ; it is essential to our acceptable worship of Him.

I. WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT

A. Baptism Is Not A Sacrament

1. The word SACRAMENT implies saving grace.
2. Baptism does not save!
 - a. *Matthew 3:13-17*
 - b. *Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,*

B. Baptism Is Not The Means Of Salvation

1. To all those who would try to use baptism as a way of salvation, God's Word gives a very strong rebuke:
 - a. *Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,*
 - b. *Matthew 3:15 - 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.*
 - (1) Jesus Himself, said baptism was an act of *"righteousness"*.
 - (2) IF, baptism was a means of salvation then Jesus contradicted - *Titus 3:5.*
2. God declares emphatically that we are saved by grace (God's unmerited favor) through faith in His Son. *Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast."*

C. Water Cannot Cleanse Our Sins

1. God tells us sin is cleansed only by the blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. ***"in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sin." – Colossians 1:14.***
 - b. ***"Without the shedding of blood (there) is no remission." - Hebrews 9:22.***
2. Baptism is not in any way necessary for anyone to be saved.

II. WHAT BAPTISM IS FOR

A. Baptism Is For Those Who Have Received Jesus Christ As Their Own Personal Saviour.

1. Nowhere in the Bible does God tell anyone who has not personally trusted His Son as Saviour to be baptized. But, baptism is the first thing that God demands and expects of all those who have received the Lord Jesus Christ into their heart.
2. Note the Scripture:
 - a. ***Matthew 28:19 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Shows water baptism to be the first thing to do after salvation.***
 - b. ***"and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." - Acts 18:8.***
 - c. ***"Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized." - Acts 2:41.***
 - d. ***Acts 8:36-37 - {36} See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? {37} 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.***
 - e. ***Acts 2:38 --Peter told these unconverted Jews, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you...." They repented and the first thing they did was to be baptized as is seen in Acts 2:41 - "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized."***
 - f. ***Acts 16:31-33 – READ The first thing the Philippian jailor did after he was saved was to be baptized.***

B. Baptism Is For All Of Those Who Desire To Follow In The Footsteps Of Their Saviour.

1. Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized of (by) John in Jordon.
2. ***Matthew 3:13-17***

III. WHAT BAPTISM IS

A. Baptism Is A Burial

1. Sprinkling will not suffice. God commanded us to be completely buried under the water.
2. Note the Scripture:
 - a. ***"Therefore we are buried with Him (Jesus) by baptism into death." - Romans 6:4.***

b. **"Buried with Him (Jesus) in baptism." Colossians 2:12**

B. **Baptism Is A Picture Story**

1. It reminds us of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins.
2. Note the Scriptures:
 - a. **"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day." - I Corinthians 15:3 - 4.**
 - b. You are **"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." - Colossians 2:12.**

C. **Baptism Is:** A declaration that you personally believe that as 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.

D. **Baptism Is:** A public commitment to be an open disciple of the Lord. It is by this that we can show to all whose side we are on.

E. **Baptism Is:** The showing of your desire to walk in the newness of the eternal life that God has given you. **Romans 6:4 - 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.**

IV. **WHAT BAPTISM DOES**

A. **Baptism Unites You To The Local New Testament Baptist Church. Acts 2:41- "Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day were added unto them (the church) about three thousand souls."**

B. **Baptism Declares Your Separation From Your Old Life, With Its Sinful Desires And Lusts. - Romans 6:5-6 - "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."**

C. **Baptism Enables You To Enter Into The Joy That Awaits You In Serving The Lord As A Member Of His Church.**

1. It gives you assurance that you are now giving God the glory for your life.
2. **Ephesians 3:21 - "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."**

CONCLUSION:

If you are here today and know that you have been saved, but have not been biblically baptized, then why not consider following your Lord in scriptural baptism?