

## **“WATER BAPTISM”**

### **Intro:**

\*The purpose for our study on Water Baptism is twofold.

-1) To show from the Scriptures that water baptism has nothing to do with the salvation of the soul.

-2) To show from the Scriptures that water baptism is a “good work” and what it means to the born again believer.

### **I. WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES FOR WATER BAPTISM?**

\*The Bible teaches clearly that anybody who is saved and born again by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and being born of the Holy Spirit is to be baptized in water after he has been saved.

#### **A. First Example - Matthew 3:13-14 - Jesus baptized in water.**

1. Jesus certainly didn't need to be baptized in water to be saved.
2. He was already sinless because He was born of the Holy Spirit some thirty years before His actual water baptism.
3. But in order to testify to the world that He was submitted to the Father and the He was born of the Spirit.
4. He submitted himself to water baptism, which is a “**like figure**” according to I Peter 3:21 of the Spirit birth and baptism.
5. **Read Matthew 3:13-14.**
6. This baptism which John needs is the baptism of the Holy Spirit which the Lord Jesus gives to any believer who receives Him by faith according to **Galatians 3:26-28**.
7. **Read Galatians 3:26-28.**
8. When a sinner puts faith in Jesus Christ, He baptizes him into His body by the Holy Spirit as stated in **I Corinthians 12:13**.
9. **Read I Corthians 12:13.**
10. The Bible is very plain and very clear no matter what anybody says about it.
11. It is very obvious and unmistakable that a person who is saved and born of the spirit is to be baptized in water afterwards, in order to manifest to others what has already taken place.

12. No one knew by looking at Jesus that He was born of the Spirit, but according to **Luke 1:34-35**, He was.

13. **Read Luke 1:34-35**

## **B. OTHERS IN THE BIBLE BAPTIZED IN WATER AFTER BORN OF THE SPIRIT OR SAVED.**

Several others in the Bible besides the Lord Jesus Christ are baptized in water after they are born of the Holy Spirit or saved.

### **a) The Acts of the Apostles is the history of the early church.**

1. Acts Chapter 8 tells the story of the salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch.

2. **Read Acts 8:35.**

3. Notice Philip isn't preaching unto him baptism; he's preaching unto Jesus.

4. **Read Acts 8:36.**

5. Notice belief comes before baptism.

6. The eunuch said in **verse 37 - Read.**

### **b) Acts 9 - Paul believes on the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 5 and 6.**

1. Then three days later, **verse 18 says: Read.**

2. He was baptized after he believed, after he was saved, as a picture of his salvation.

### **c) Acts 10**

1. Cornelius received the word, and **verse 44 says, - Read.**

2. They had already heard the word, believed, and received the Holy Ghost.

3. As the Bible says in **Ephesians 1:13**, the proper order of salvation is to hear the gospel and believe the gospel; then the Holy Spirit seals or baptizes the believer.

4. **Read Ephesians 1:13.**

5. Then after these Gentiles in Acts 10 were saved, **verse 47 says - read.**

6. Now notice it: read it carefully.

7. It says that they have already received the Holy Ghost and after that they are to be baptized in water.

8. It's plain to those who have understanding.

9. It's not plain to those who don't want to understand, but teach their own man-made doctrines.

10. The Bible is clear about it.

#### **d) Acts 16.**

1. The Philippian jailor is saved.

2. He says to Paul and Silas in **Acts 16:30** **0 read.**

3. They reply - **Acts 16:31** - **read.**

4. In **I Corinthians 1:17**, Paul says, **“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel.”**

5. Notice, Baptism is not a part of the gospel; it is a part of your testimony.

6. Note the clear declaration of the gospel in **I Corinthians 15: 3-5**, **minus water baptism.** - **Read I Cor. 15:3-5.**

7. The gospel is the **“power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” Romans 1:16, not** unto everyone who gets baptized in water.

8. Continuing in **Acts 16:31-34** - **read.**

9. This man was baptized after he believed as a testimony.

#### **e) Acts 18**

1. The story of Crispus, the chief ruler who in **verse 8**, **“believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”**

2. It is a natural progression--their belief and then their baptism.

3. Salvation is not a result of water baptism.

4. It is **only** by Jesus Christ that a person is saved, not by baptism in water.

5. Numerous scriptures teach that a man is saved by believing in Jesus Christ.

6. There are not any scriptures that teach that a man is saved by water baptism during this age in which you and I are living.

7. When a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, he is saved.
8. **Read Romans 10:9-10,13.**
9. **Read Galatians 3:26.**
10. **Read John 1:12.**
11. When a person believes on his name, he is saved; he is saved.
12. Then as a testimony and a picture of that new birth he is baptized in water. - **Read I Peter 3:21, says.**
13. Peter is writing about the days of Noah and the ark, and the water when all but eight were killed.
14. By the way, the ones who were saved by water verse 20 of I Pe. 3, didn't go under the water --they were on top of the water.
15. The ones who went under the water perished.
16. This verse really refutes the teaching that a person goes into the water to be saved.
17. Notice that the King James Bible does not contradict itself as the other "Bibles" do.
18. It explains the fact that this baptism is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh.
19. Water baptism doesn't put away the filth of the flesh--only spiritual baptism does according to **Colossians 2:10-12, Romans 6, Hebrews 4:15 and other passages dealing with the new birth and the salvation of the believer.**
20. Spiritual baptism saves us and then water baptism is a like figure of that salvation.
21. It is "**not the putting the away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.**" I Pe. 3:21.
22. Only someone whose conscience has been made good is to be baptized in water.
21. **Hebrews 9:14, states that the conscience is made good by the blood of Jesus Christ. - Read Hebrews 9:14.**
22. Blood is applied to the believer when he has faith in Jesus Christ.
23. The Bible states this clearly in **Romans 3 and Chapter 5:1 says - "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God,"**

24. **Romans 5:9** - says “much more than being now justified by his blood”

25. After his conscience is made good, God tells the believer to be baptized in water to picture his salvation experience.

26. The answer of a good conscience is obedience to water baptism.

27. It doesn't matter what anybody tells you--the Bible is clear on this time and time again through the books of John, Acts, Romans, and Galatians.

28. A person is saved and born again by faith and by belief.

29. Then as a picture and a testimony of that to the physical world, he is baptized in water.

30. A little later we will discuss all that this baptism pictures.

## II. HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

1. The Bible is clear about the mode of baptism.

Romans 6:3-4, tells us that a baptism is not a sprinkling or aspersion or anything like that--it is a burial, an **immersion!**

**Read Romans 6:3-4.**

2. Although this verse is speaking of a spiritual baptism in particular, water baptism is a like figure of that; therefore it is also a burial.

3. To emphasize the burial, let's look at some examples in the scriptures.

**a. Matthew 3:16** - where the Lord Jesus is baptized, the Bible says “**And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.**”

\*He was down in the water.

\*If sprinkling is the proper form of baptism, a river isn't needed--any cup would do; but a lot of water is needed to bury a man.

**b. John 3:23** - where John was baptizing in Jordan, - “**And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there.**”

\*Much water is needed to bury a man.

\*When a man is buried, dirt isn't thrown at him, he is put under the ground.

**c. Acts 8:38-39** - when Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, “**He baptized him,**” verse 39 “**and when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.**”

4. From these examples it is evident that baptism is an immersion or burial.
5. Baptism is to be done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

**\*In Matthew 28:19, the Bible says - Read.**

6. The mode of baptism is a burial, an immersion, just as the Greek word “baptizo” means, and it is to be done in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### **III. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR WATER BAPTISM?**

#### **A. Introduction:**

\*Three basic purposes for the water baptism of a Christian.

1. It has a past reference.
2. A present teaching.
3. A future teaching.

#### **B. Past Reference**

1. The believer’s baptism in water pictures something that took place;
2. It shows something that is true now in the present.
3. It pictures something that is going to take place in the future.
4. Water baptism pictures the spiritual baptism that has already taken place when the person was born again.
5. It pictures the death, burial, resurrection, cleansing and birth that took place at the moment of salvation.
6. The death, burial and resurrection are spoken of in **Romans 6:3 - read.**
7. A believer is dead judicially; his flesh is dead in God’s sight.
8. Note in **Romans 6:6** that his carnal nature is crucified.
9. The sentence of death has been carried out and he is to reckon his flesh dead according to **Romans 6:11.**

\*He is no longer accountable for sin as far as eternity goes and he has been raised spiritually.

**10. Ephesians 2:1 - “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin,”**

\*When a person believes on Jesus Christ he is given life eternal, which is spiritual life that he did not have before.

**11. Romans 6:5 - Read.**

12. After a body is destroyed and crucified it is then buried.

\*God has crucified the believer's old nature--his old man.

\*He has buried it; therefore, **Romans 6:7 - "For he that is dead is freed from sin," -- Romans 6:11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ Lord."**

13. So the like figure, baptism, pictures the believer's salvation experience when he receives the Lord Jesus Christ.

\*At that time his old nature is crucified and buried.

\*Going under the water in baptism pictures that death and burial.

\*Arising from the water pictures the spiritual life and resurrection that the believer was given on the day he received Christ as his saviour.

14. Baptism also pictures the cleaning of the believer at salvation.

**\*I Cor. 6:11, says - "And such were some of you" - Talking about their past, "but ye are washed, ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God,"**

**15. Titus 3:5 calls it "the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"**

16. Submission to water baptism in the Bible pictures a birth.

\*The Bible says in **Genesis 1:20**, when God was creating the heavens and the earth, **"And God said, Let the water bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life."**

17. The first life that was created came from the waters.

18. Any woman who has had children understands how water is connected with physical birth.

19. In order to picture spiritual birth which cannot be seen, God asks a man to be baptized in water.

**C. PRESENT REFERENCE (TEACHING).**

1. Baptism - shows the believer's subjection to the local church and to the pastor that God has called out.

2. **I Cor. 10:1-2** says, **"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers,"**

3. Talking about the old Testament Jews, **"were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."**

4. When a person submits to the authority of the pastor or shepherd of the local church, he will be baptized unto that man, just as the Jews were baptized unto Moses.

5. When a believer is baptized in water, he is baptized by the pastor of a local church showing that he is in subjection to his authority; because of the office he holds (I Timothy 3:1).

6. All those that followed Moses were in subjection to him as God's man whom He had called into that position, and he had spiritual rule over them much as the pastor of a local church does.

7. According to **I Timothy 3:4**, the pastor is to rule the flock: **Read.**

8. **Hebrews 13:7**, talks about the people that have the rule, **"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God."**

9. **I Thess. 5:12**, also mentions the fact that there are people that have a spiritual rule, **"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you."**

#### **D. FUTURE REFERENCE**

1. Water baptism is also a Christian's testimony that he believes in a literal, physical resurrection.

2. In **I Corinthians 15**, the Apostle Paul has been writing about the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he's going to write about the resurrection of the believers in **verses 51-56**.

3. In the context of **Chapter 15**, dealing with the physical resurrection Paul writes in **verse 29**, **"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all?"**

4. **"For"** meaning "because of".

5. When someone is put in jail for stealing, it's because he has stolen, not so he can steal.

6. The verse is saying that if the dead aren't coming up, why get baptized in the water--it doesn't picture anything;



7. It's a testimony to nothing!!

8. However, the King James (AV 1611) Bible teaches, and God Almighty teaches, that there is going to be a literal, physical resurrection.

9. When a person is baptized in water and comes up out of the water, he is saying, "I'm going to come up in the future. If the body goes to the grave, one day it's coming up. - **Bless God!!**"

10. **I Corinthians 15:51 says, - read.**

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

1. The purpose for baptism of a Christian is three fold.

a) It is a like figure picturing his salvation experience;

b) It is his testimony of his subjection to the pastor of a local church;

c) It is his testimony of belief in a literal resurrection.

2. It has a past, present, and future teaching.