

Knowing Jesus Bible Study Guide #6 Baptism

© 2013 Thomas A. Bentley (you may copy and use for non-commercial purposes)

Last time we looked at the text:

Acts: 2:38-39 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

One of the foundational teachings in the Gospel is related to the role of baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. Today we will begin to unpack these concepts and their significance.

1. Why was Jesus baptized and why did Jesus adopt baptism for His followers? (John 3:22)

ANSWER: Matthew 3:13-15 - Baptism was sanctioned and adopted by Christ to fulfill all

_____.

This word in the New Testament Greek has the implications of justice. It is used to describe religious practices that fulfill God's requirements. In Biblical Christianity there are seven main practices that mark being a Christian; loving God, loving others, church organization, tithing, baptism, foot washing and the Lord's Supper.

2. Did Jesus appoint baptism as an ordinance in the Christian church?

ANSWER: Matthew 28:19-20 _____ YES _____ NO

3. How many kinds of baptism are there in Christian practice?

ANSWER: Ephesians 4:5 There is only _____.

Throughout church history many different types of baptism have sprung up but for biblical Christianity there is only one kind of baptism that satisfies the righteous requirement. Remember that only the practices that we see laid out in the Bible are foundational for biblical Christianity. Practices that have arisen through tradition are extra-biblical and are not inspired by God or necessary for salvation will satisfy the righteous requirements God has for us in Christ. Remember, there is a way that seems right to man but the end thereof is death. The method of baptism is very important and should never be subject to human whims.

4. What is required in order to fulfill the righteous requirement of baptism?

A. Acts 2:38 - _____ is necessary. See also Acts 22:16.

B. Acts 8:37, 18:8 - You must have _____.

Note: a baby or a small child can not possibly be baptized as a Christian. A baby doesn't have the reasoning or ability to do what is required in A and B above. You must be at an age of accountability where you understand what it is you are doing.

C. John 3:23 There must be much _____.

D. Acts 8:36-38 Both the person and the administrator of the baptism must go down and come up out of the _____.

Baptism comes from the Greek verb baptizo which implies being immersed in something. For example, to dye a cloth you immerse it entirely in the dye. It goes in one color and comes out another.

5. Why all the fuss? Is there a reason why baptism must be done correctly to satisfy all righteousness?

ANSWER: Titus 3:4-7 YES! - Baptism is a _____ of two important Christian realities.

A. Baptism is symbolic of _____.

The word "regeneration" in this text is found in ancient Greek to have the idea of being born again. It means "to experience a complete change in one's way of life."¹

B. Baptism is symbolic of _____.

This word implies that through baptism something caused you to become new and different. See Ezekiel 36:26. Titus 3:5-6 connects the symbolism of baptism with the work of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Louw Nida - 41.53

6. What event in the New Testament is equated with baptism and the reality of being born again?

ANSWER: Romans 6:1-6 Baptism is equated with the death - burial and _____ of Jesus.

A. In baptism the old sinful life _____ and is buried a new life in Christ begins that is freed from the power of sin.

Note: Only biblical baptism by total immersion could possibly fulfill this symbolism. In biblical baptism the person goes completely under the water symbolic of dying with Christ and being buried in the tomb. When the person comes out of the water it is symbolic of being reborn and taking your first breath of a new life. This is why understanding and performing baptism according to the Bible is so important.

7. In what way does biblical baptism save you?

ANSWER: 1 Peter 3:18-22 Baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards _____.

Note: being baptized biblically is a faith based response to repentance, receiving forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus, being freed from the power of sin and desiring to receive the Holy Spirit to walk in newness of life.

8. If you have not been baptized biblically, have fallen from the faith, or realize that you did not really understand all truth prior to being baptized, what should a Christian tell you to do?

ANSWER: Acts 22:16 - Now why are you _____?

ANSWER KEY: 1) righteousness. 2) Yes. 3) One. 4) A. Repentance; B. Faith; C water; D. Water. 5) Symbol; A. Rebirth, B. Renewal. 6) resurrection; A. Dies. 7) God. 8) waiting.