

Laying the Foundations

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Section Four: Water Baptism and Foot Washing

Section Four is designed to help Christians come to a better understanding of water baptism and why all who are born again should be baptized.



Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

Section Four – Part One

The Bible is very clear regarding God's _____ pertaining to Christians and water baptism. If we are true to scripture we will have no question as to whether or not we are to be baptized after we are born again.

One point of debate in some churches is how baptism is to take place: is baptism to be performed by _____, by _____ water _____ an individual, by _____, or by some _____ of these three? The Bible leaves no doubt as to how baptism is to take place.

The word "baptize" appears _____ in the New Testament [two times in Matt. 3:11, Mark 1:4, Mark 1:8, two times in Luke 3:16, John 1:26, John 1:33, and 1 Cor. 1:17]. It comes from the Greek word "baptizo," which means, "_____
_____. This is the _____ word that is _____ in the New Testament in reference to water baptism. The Greek words for sprinkling (rhantizo) and pouring (epicheo) are _____ used in the New Testament relative to water baptism. Therefore, according to the Bible the only acceptable form of baptism is _____.

Another question that has arisen in churches concerns the baptism of _____ by _____ them with water. Once again, the Bible answers this question. *[Read Acts 2:38,*

Acts 8:35-38, Acts 10:47, Mark 16:15-16 and Matt. 28:18-20 These verses reveal that the _____
_____ qualified for baptism are those who have chosen to accept Jesus as Savior.

- 1) Babies are not _____ to the point of being able to accept Jesus as Savior.
- 2) It has already been _____ that sprinkling is _____ the scriptural pattern for baptism.
- 3) There is absolutely no _____ anywhere in the New Testament where babies are baptized by _____ whatsoever.

Based upon the scriptural _____, there is _____
from God that we are to sprinkle babies as a form of baptism.

Some churches teach that baptism causes a person to experience _____.
The Bible adamantly _____ such doctrine. ***[Read John 3:1-7]*** Jesus was explaining that a person who has been born _____ must also be born _____ if he wants to be born again. Although baptism for Christians is _____, the teaching throughout the New Testament is to have a _____ with Jesus by accepting Him as Savior. ***[Read Romans 10:8-13, 1 Thes. 5:9, 2 Tim. 2:10, 2 Tim 3:15]***
God's word plainly _____ that salvation _____ through faith in Jesus.

One subject of particular contention among many churches is what should be _____
when a person is being baptized. By studying the scriptures, we can find the answer.

- 1) ***[Read Acts 2:38]*** Baptism _____.
- 2) ***[Read Acts 8:12, 14-16]*** Baptism _____.
- 3) ***[Read Acts 8:37-38]*** Baptism with _____ of _____.
(Similar to Acts 9:17-18, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16:31-33, and Acts 18:8.)
- 4) ***[Read Acts 10:47-48]*** Baptism _____.
- 5) ***[Read Acts 19:5]*** Baptism _____.

6) *[Read Matt. 28:19]* Baptism _____
_____.

As is seen in scripture, there is no _____ pattern of what was said when people were baptized. Likewise, no one is seen as being _____ or _____ over what was said during baptism. However, many people say something similar to what Jesus instructed in **Matt. 28:19** when they perform baptisms.

A final question some have asked is _____ should perform baptisms. Some believe only _____ should baptize people. In Matt. 28:19, Jesus gave the instructions to baptize to _____. Throughout the book of Acts it is _____ who are seen as performing baptisms. However, there does seem to be a possible exception.

[Read Acts 1:14-15, 26; 2:1, 14, 37-38, 41] Three thousand people _____ by twelve equals _____ baptisms _____. If only the _____ had performed the baptisms, it would have taken _____ to baptize _____. Also, this would have been physically exhausting. Therefore, although scripture does not say so, it is _____ that all who were in the upper room helped: _____ may have baptized _____ while the _____ baptized the _____. This is only _____ and cannot be proven.

The Bible is not explicitly clear as to who should perform baptisms. But it is the generally accepted practice that baptisms are performed by _____ or other _____. Even so, nothing in scripture declares that **lay Christians** _____ are forbidden to perform baptisms.

Section Four – Part Two

IS WATER BAPTISM REALLY NECESSARY?

[Read 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21; Matt. 3:13-17] Scripture encourages us to use Jesus as our _____ for how we should live. Jesus was baptized because He felt it was _____. If we are going to follow in His steps, then we have _____ for not being baptized. Since Jesus was baptized we should _____ to being baptized. A person who does not want to follow this _____ in the life of Jesus _____ say he is truly following after Jesus.

[Read John 8:31; Matt. 28:19-20] If we want to be a _____ of Jesus, then we must do what He says. Before He ascended into Heaven, He gave an _____ that _____ are to be baptized. Those who _____ in His word will comply with these instructions. This means that _____ will _____ believers to be baptized. Likewise, Christians not in _____ will seek to understand about baptism and will be baptized. Ministers who do not instruct and encourage people to be baptized are _____ to do what Jesus said in Matt. 28:20.

[Read Acts 2:38; 8:5, 12; 8:35-38; 9:17-18; 10:47-48; 16:31-35; 19:2-6] When the Church was first being established the apostles placed _____ on being baptized. They felt it was necessary to preach baptism right along with being _____. They demonstrated an _____ that people who accepted Jesus would be baptized. The Bible portrays them as having _____ to this standard: when you get born again, you get baptized.

Along with what the apostles taught about baptism, there is no record in scripture that anyone _____ or _____ being baptized. Also, there is nowhere in scripture where the apostles taught that a time would come when:

- 1) Baptism would _____ to be _____.

2) There would be a change from _____ to other forms of baptism.

3) Christians would _____ to be baptized.

Since this was the _____ when the Church was established, it should be the same today. A church today _____ instruct Christians to be baptized if that church claims to exemplify a _____ church. Similarly, someone who is born again and desires to demonstrate _____ will be baptized. Any Christian who _____ to being baptized has no _____ for such objections.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

Water baptism is an _____. In essence, this means that baptism is not a _____ which produces our salvation, but it is an act _____ to the salvation we have received through faith in Jesus. A person does not _____ his salvation if he is not baptized; but baptism represents much in connection to salvation.

In the Bible, especially the Old Testament, non-Jews who lived with Jews were sometimes referred to as _____ [*Read Exodus 12:19, 48-49; Lev. 16:29*]. Sometimes, these non-Jews would witness the blessings of God on the Jewish people and desire to become one of them (A type of example is found in Ruth 1:1-16.) Provision was made whereby this could happen and a very special set of instructions had to be followed. This individual (typically a male, either single or the head of a family) was known as a _____.

Several steps took place as this man became a convert to Judaism. He would have to know the law, in particular, the _____. He would have to make a declaration before the priests that he was _____ any and all gods other than the God of the Jews. He would also have to declare his _____ to the Israelite nation. Additionally, he and all the males of his household would have to be circumcised.

The last step is referred to by some as the “proselyte _____.” This was ideally performed in “_____” [water which is either bubbling (like an artesian spring) or running (like a river or brook)]. This particular part of the ceremony essentially followed along these lines:

- 1) The proselyte would remove all of his clothing, signifying that he had _____ of all sin and that there was nothing in his life he was trying to _____ from God.
- 2) He would enter the water with at least _____. Other priests would stand by as witnesses.
- 3) As the man was lowered into the water a _____ was made over him, e.g. *“Although you were born an (Egyptian, Philistine, Canaanite, etc), this day you _____ as an (Egyptian, Philistine, Canaanite, etc)...”*
- 4) As the man was raised out of the water, the declaration continued, *“...and are _____ from the dead, _____ as an Israelite.”* Though he didn’t literally die and raise up again, this represented a _____ he held for the rest of his life. It was even said that, *“One who has become a proselyte is like a _____.”* From this time forward the man was considered a Jew and was required to live according to Jewish laws and customs.

[Read Rom. 6:3-11] Unlike the Jewish proselyte whose baptism represented a positional truth, our baptism represents a _____. When we accept Jesus as Savior, our spiritually dead sin nature is _____. Our being lowered into the water is _____ of us dying under the penalty of sin; we do not actually die because Jesus died in our place.

When we are raised out of the water, it is symbolic of us being _____ and being re-born. In the most absolute sense, we are _____ from spiritual death to spiritual life. Our baptism is declaring that we went into the water a

_____, died and were buried as a sinner, but were raised out of the water as a _____ of a different _____. *[Read 1 Peter 2:2]* From God's perspective, when we are born again we are a _____.

When a Christian is baptized, it is an act in the natural which _____ the reality of our born again experience. When this is realized and understood, water baptism can have an _____ and _____ impact which can last a lifetime!