

“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program

Lesson Six- What is Baptism?

Scripture- Matthew 3:13-17

Memory verse- Galatians 3:27, *“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

INTRODUCTION- Jesus Christ enters our heart upon the day of our salvation, and immediately, upon His arrival, begins the work of conforming us into His Own image (Romans 8:29). The “image” Christ would have us bear in this life is one of the utmost obedience. Just as Christ, while upon the earth, was in subjection to His Father’s will, so must we be in subjection to our Lord while in this life (Philippians 2:5-13). Scripture teaches us that Christ has left us an “Example” in which we are to strictly follow to the best of our ability (I Peter 2:21). It is not the intent of



our Lord to simply reside in our hearts, but also to preside over our hearts. If He has been taken into your life, let Him take over your life. But, what shall be the first duty to Christ for the believer after salvation? What is the first step in displaying our desire to please the Lord with our lives? In this lesson, we will biblically answer the question regarding the first step of obedience to Christ—What is Baptism?

I. THE “ OF BAPTISM

- A. **Baptism is the outward _____ of an inward _____.**
(Philippians 2:12; Acts 2:41, 8:12, 35-38)
- B. **Baptism is the willing _____ of an infant _____.**
(Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:44-48, 16:30-33)

NOTE- Consider the following illustration- By following Christ in “believer’s baptism”, we are demonstrating before the Lord and the world that we are glad to own Christ as our Saviour. By baptism, we do publicly identify ourselves with the Lord. Can you imagine a wife refusing to wear her wedding ring, which identifies her with her husband? How do you think that husband would feel about such behavior? Furthermore, does this action display the wife’s total devotion for her husband properly? Of course not. Baptism is simply a “like figure” or symbol that illustrates to others that we no longer belong to the world, and that we are with Christ (I Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:26-27).

II. THE “ ” OF BAPTISM

- A. **Baptism is to be administered with _____.**
(Matthew 3:13; Mark 1:9-10; John 1:26-34; Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 28:19)
- B. **Baptism is to be applied by _____.**
(Romans 6:3-5; Ephesians 4:5)

NOTE- Consider the following illustration- Of all the funerals you have attended, and of all the cemeteries you have visited, have you ever witnessed any corpse sprinkled with dirt? When we say that we have “buried” our dead, we are literally describing a total immersion beneath earthen soil. Thus, “*we are buried with Him by baptism into death...*” (Romans 6:4).

- C. **Baptism is to be accessed through a _____.**
(Matthew 28:18-20; II Peter 2:1-3; Matthew 16:18)

III. THE “ ” OF BAPTISM

- A. **The misunderstanding that baptism _____.**
(Example- Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:20-21; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

NOTE- Notice the following- The Bible does not teach “baptismal regeneration” (to make alive again through baptism):

1. John the Baptist baptized others, yet we have no record of his baptism.
2. The believing thief on the cross was promised “*to be with Me [Christ] in paradise*” (Luke 23:40-43), yet he was never baptized.
3. Paul was a “*chosen vessel*” (Acts 9:15) unto the Lord for the Gospel’s sake, yet he thanked God saying “*I baptized none of you*”, and that “*Christ sent me not to baptize*” (I Corinthians 1:14,17).
4. Jesus Christ was baptized, but had no need to be saved (I Peter 2:22).

- B. **The misunderstanding that baptism is _____.**
(Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 28:19-20)

IV. CONCLUSION

Baptism is the public expression of the believer's decision of trusting Christ as his Saviour, as well as his personal commitment to "*walk in newness of life*".

Student tip- The most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love for God is found in the immediate obedience of His children to His will.