

# Water Baptism

## **Mark 1** NIV

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —

**3**

“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

**4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

**6** John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

- Water Baptism, from the beginning is found only in the New Testament. As a matter of fact you won’t even find the word baptism in the Old Testament.
- Water Baptism began with the Ministry of John the Baptist and is a response to the message that the Lord is coming. John the Baptist’ preached -‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him’.
- People came, even from Jerusalem, confessing their sins and were baptized.
- The Apostle Paul refers to John’s Baptism as a baptism of repentance in Acts 19 and is tied to people turning from sin to God and publicly professing their faith in him.

- Today this continues as we celebrate with believers as they also have turned to God and are making a public professions of their faith in Jesus.

**Baptism:** to dip, to cover, to submerge (of a sunken vessel). Root word meaning to immerse, to dye a garment with color. To pickle vegetables in vinegar.

**One question about Baptism is:** Is Water Baptism really that important?

- Jesus ministry is book-ended with Baptism.
- For starters Jesus ministry didn't begin until after he was baptized.

### **Matthew 3** NIV

**13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

**15** Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

**16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

- Jesus life is the perfect model and example for us to follow.
- Couple quick examples; Jesus was dedicated as a baby, he was baptized later at a mature age.
- Jesus wasn't baptized because he had come out of sin but he was baptized in modeling righteousness and identifying with fallen mankind whom he came to save.

## **Matthew 28** NIV

**18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- The very last words of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel was a reminder to the Disciples to make Disciples and Baptize them.

## **Couple things we need to know about Water Baptism**

**1. In the early Church, Water Baptism was tied to repentance, getting right with God, and making it public.**

## **Acts 2** NIV - Peter Preaches to the Multitude

**37** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

**38** Peter replied, “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. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

**40** With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” **41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- Water Baptism from the beginning has been viewed as a public declaration of faith and commitment to Christ, an act that symbolized

joining a community often subject to intense hostility and persecution from Jewish and later Roman authorities.

- There are in parts of the world, cultures that don't take a person too serious, when they only claim to be a Christian. But when they get Baptized and make it public, then the claim that they are Christian is taken very seriously.
- Early NT believers suffered persecution as a result of Water Baptism because it was viewed as a refusal of emperor worship in the Roman Empire and a refusal of Roman accepted pagan worship. So early believers knew at Water Baptism their faith in Jesus could cost them greatly.

## **2. Jesus requires it of every believer**

### **Matthew 18**

**18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Another common question people ask regarding Baptism:** Is Baptism required for me to be Saved and go to Heaven?

The short answer is No.

### **Titus 3:4,5**

**4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

- We are not saved by Water Baptism but we obedient to the one who saved us when we are Baptized.
- The heart of any born again believer in Jesus out to be one that desires to please him and walk in obedience.
- Water Baptism is meant to be the first outward act of obedience to Jesus. First we believe and then we are baptized.

## **Mark 16**

**15** He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

- Jesus said whoever does not believe will be condemned. He doesn't say whoever is not Baptized will be condemned. So we understand that Salvation comes as a result of believing in Jesus.
- Peter after speaking to Gentiles in the Cornelius's house and seeing them receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, didn't just encourage but gave orders that they be baptized.

## **Acts 10:48**

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

- Even as Peter required that these believers be baptized can I encourage you that if you believe and have not been, that you also get baptized.

### 3. Water Baptism is a Burial Type of the Old Person

#### Romans 6

**1** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- Water baptism is a dramatization of the believer identifying with Jesus in His death and resurrection.
- The Apostle Paul builds on the idea of going under the water as a picture of being buried and coming up from the water as a picture of rising from the dead.

*“From this and other references to baptism in Paul’s writings, it is plain that he did not regard baptism as an ‘optional extra’ in the Christian life.” (Bruce)*

**This leads to another question about Baptism:** Should I wait until I feel Spiritually Mature to be Baptized?

**Answer:** In the Bible when anyone comes to Christ there is usually a quick baptism that follows.

- I believe it's fair to say that every believer being baptized should have a good biblical understanding of it. That they should make sure the decision to follow Christ is sincere. But to think they must achieve a certain level of Spiritual Maturity before is not what we see in Scripture.

- The important question to ask is this: have I repented of my sins and turn to Christ. Have I asked him to forgive me and be my Savior. If the answer to those questions is yes; Then you, my friend, are ready to be baptized.

### **It can be said that there are three parts represented in that Baptismal Tank. (Past, Present and Future)**

- For one, we are now in Christ and the old is gone. Not that the sin nature is not still contending, because it will. But that as Christ followers we are reminded to die daily to the old person and leave those old ways in the past, and under the blood of Jesus.
- Second, we are now in Christ. It doesn't matter what we've done. We are now forgiven and in right standings with God because of Christ.
- Third, we have an incredible future to look forward to. For the believer there is no need to fear the future or even death. Why because we are now in Christ. He has gone before us and is already there.

**Vs. 5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- There is a power understanding that we get from both Romans 6 and Galatians 3 and that is, when we are Baptized in Water it symbolizes that we are both united and baptized into Christ Jesus.

### **Galatians 3**

**26** So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

### **Transition:**

Today we celebrate 15 people who have given their lives to Jesus and are being baptized. Will you give them a big hand as they come.