

WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER PENTECOST 05 THE REPSONSE TO PENTECOST 02 BAPTISM IN WATER STUDY GUIDE

Read Acts 2.38. Last week we looked at repent, this week we will look at baptism. We must be baptized in the name of Jesus. Part of the response to the MESSAGE OF JESUS is water baptism. The word baptism in Greek means to dip, wash, or fully immerse something in a liquid. So, for there to be a baptism we need to have a baptizer, a person being baptised and a medium into which the person is baptized. The oldest use of the Greek word baptism is taking an article of clothing and baptizing it into dye, to change the colour of the garment. If you take a white cloth and baptize it into red dye, then when you take it out, there is no more white cloth, it does not exist anymore, but the cloth is now red cloth.

Any practice that does not involve a dipping and immersion cannot Biblically be called baptism. In the New Testament, baptism is your whole body being placed under the water. It started before the church, with John the Baptist who baptized thousands of people in the Jordan. Now this baptism is not the New Testament baptism. This can be ascertained because it is before the cross, and also because John saw it in a moral framework, reforming your life to prepare for a coming Christ, rather than celebrating our new life in Christ.

When you are water baptized, you are baptized by other believers and you are baptized in water. This baptism should be done after you are born again and is a picture of what happens when you are born again.

Water baptism is happening all over the world. The Eskimos cut a hole in the ice and baptize no more than three people at a time, they run out of the water into a house with a log fire to dry off. In India, they baptize people in graves. Every second of every minute of every day a Christian is being baptized in water.

Water Baptism is For All Christians

All Christians should take communion with one another, and when someone is sick and calls the elders, the elders should anoint them with oil for healing, and finally all Christians should at one time be water baptized. These are the three times the church is told to get involved with tangible elements, and this is one of them. And this is the foundational one, that Paul says is a foundational doctrine.

Water baptism, total immersion in water, is found immediately across the whole Bible, the first 3000 people saved were all baptized on the same day they became Christians. From then on, that was the normal practise of the church. There is no evidence of an unbaptized Christian in the New Testament. Getting baptized was seen as part of obedience to the Lordship of Christ. When Paul writes to churches, he assumes everyone is baptized and can remember being baptized. Now that should be the end of it, it is simple obedience to the Word of God, it is part of our discipleship, it is an essential part of the gospel. If Jesus says go and be baptized, I will. We may ask why the Lord wants us to obey Him and follow the gospel by being dunked in water in front of others, but we would do it because He said so and He is good and He only tells us to do good.

Matthew 28.19-20 tells us to go and make disciples of all nations, and the outward action that verifies that you have decided to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is water baptism. In Mark 16.15-16 baptism is linked with believing and salvation. Saved people should be

getting baptized. Now, baptism will not save us. There is no magic about getting wet, but the faith that brings us to salvation will lead to us getting baptised.

Baptism, across the world, has a high cost attached to it. Baptized converts from Islam will lose their houses, their families. Even in the UK, ministers from traditional denominations have lost their jobs for getting baptized in water. Some people have died because they were water baptized.

I do not want you to end today neutral about baptism, either I want you so excited you are water baptized or I want you to get water baptized at the first opportunity.

What Do We Need to Be Baptized

1. Peter tells us we need to repent and be baptized (Acts 2.38). We are not about to get baptized until we change our thinking and decide to think the way Jesus does.
2. Mark 16.16 says we need to believe and be baptized. We need to believe in Jesus before we are baptized. I know some churches have other practices, but we have to get our practices from Scripture.
3. Matt. 28.19-20 links baptism with being taught. We need to be committed to learning more about Jesus.
4. I Peter 3.21 says we need to be able to answer the Lord with a clear conscience. Peter uses the illustration of Noah as a picture of baptism. Baptism is a passing through of water into a whole new world.

Baptism in Acts – six times

Read the following verses:

- Acts 2.41
- Acts 8.36
- Acts 9.18
- Acts 10.47-48
- Acts 16.33
- Acts 19.5

The Purpose of Baptism

One of the keys in baptism is that you cannot baptize yourself. You need someone else to do it for you, that is highly significant, and baptism is not a sign of the wonderful things you have done to the Lord, it is a sign of what He has done for you. It is not really about obedience, but rather an image of Christ's obedience for us!

Read I Cor. 15.1-6. Notice, that water baptism is a picture of the entire gospel. We preached the gospel – which was our death in Christ, our burial in Christ, our resurrection with Christ, and that it was seen by witnesses. All of that is the picture painted by water baptism. It is a constant reminder of the work of Christ.

Water Baptism in the Old Testament

There are two main pictures in the Old Testament of water baptism, and both help us understand it. The first we have already mentioned and that is Noah and the ark. We pass through the waters of baptism into a whole new world. This one is mentioned by Peter in I Peter 3.20-21.

The second picture is the children of Israel, found in I Cor. 10.1-2, and Paul tells us they had a double baptism. They were all baptized in passing through the Red Sea and they were all baptized in the cloud. The baptism in water is here being compared to the Israelites passing through the Red Sea. The getting water baptised is what finally got the Israelites free from Egypt and enabled them to take the first steps to their Promised Land.

Water baptism is an essential act of worship to the Lord, it is something every early Christian did, and it is part of our discipleship. It reminds us of what the Lord Jesus did for us on the cross and our unity with Him when He died, was buried and resurrected. It reminds us of our new life in Him.

The Purpose of Baptism

One image of baptism is a bath. Most of the water used by us is used for cleaning things, because dirt is one of our enemies. It can make things ugly; it can damage things, it can be dangerous. When your hands are dirty, you know that is not good and you wash them. But we also have dirt on the inside in our souls, dirty thinking. That dirt is far more dangerous than the dirt on your hands.

Baptism is an image that Jesus has made us clean, that helps us remember that we are clean, we are holy, we are pure. All the things the Father says about us being clean are shown symbolically by baptism. We have been made clean in our spirits by the new birth, and remembering our baptisms helps us remember this! It reminds us that Jesus is the one who can save us from our sins (Matthew 1.21).

Now the water is not magic, and washing our spirits is not caused by baptism. Baptism is to remind us to have our sins forgiven.

Hebrews 10.22 tells us that having our bodies baptized helps us deal with a guilty conscience. No matter what we do wrong, we can remember we have been washed – our conscience can be clear!

The second purpose of baptism is to be a picture of burial. Romans 6.3-11 describes our involvement in the cross of Christ as a baptism. We, when we get born again, we are immersed into the death of Jesus Christ. This is a key that we must all understand: not only did Jesus die for us, but He also died with us. In a very real way, you were crucified with Christ 2000 years ago. You shared in His death and His burial, which is good news because now that means you can share in His resurrection. You can now live the resurrected life because you were crucified with Christ.

Humans are the only species that bury their dead. Animals in the wild are not routinely buried. But our bodies are treated differently – they bear the image of God; our lives were sacred. One of the purposes of a burial is to hide the decaying body from our eyes so our memories are of the body filled with life. In some countries, criminals that are executed are not buried and left publicly to disgrace them. This was forbidden in the Old Testament (Deut. 21.23).

This is entirely probably what would have happened to the body of Jesus, thrown on a rubbish heap if Joseph of Arimathea had not offered a tomb for Him.

Jesus was buried, but then He was raised from the dead. He never had a change to decay; He was raised on the third day. This is what a baptism pictures – being buried, then being resurrected. You go into the water, as an image of your old, selfish life dying and then raised out of the water in the newness of life. Every baptism is actually a funeral – which is another reason why we do not baptize ourselves.

Satan hates baptism because you remember afterwards that you are alive, you are clean, you are one with Christ. Other religions hate baptism too – the ultimate act of treason from some religions is to get baptized in the name of Jesus.

As the Lord immersed you in Christ, like the cloth, you changed from a spiritually dead man into a spiritually living man. You were born again. Now, that is something that I have found people forget very easily. So, the Lord has created a powerful act of remembrance in water baptism. You do not forget someone dunking you into water, you will never forget that day. So, water baptism is a constant reminder that you died with Christ, were buried with Christ, and rose again with Christ.

And the good news is that you were not left in the water when you were baptized. Otherwise, the church would never grow! Being lifted out of the water is not just so you can breathe again, it is as much a picture as going into the water.

Your baptism is not just a funeral, it is a resurrection service. What happened to Jesus, happened to you. They thought Jesus was dead forever, but He came out of the grave. You did not just die; you rose again when you got born again.

You are one with Christ, one spirit with Him (I Cor. 6.20) and baptism is a picture of that. Becoming a Christian is not about doing good, not about doing miracles, not about good teaching – it is becoming dead and then being raised again! Baptism helps make that the main thing.

The entry to the kingdom of God is to be born again – to enter into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptised with Christ

Paul writing to the Romans says something immensely powerful. He does not say you were buried like Christ; He says you were buried with Christ.

When you were born again, you were immersed into the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus.

- Jesus became human, to identify with us. This was a long process – he started as a baby and grew up. It took decades! It is nearly impossible to imagine how humble and how patient He had to be with everyone.
- During this stage Jesus was baptized. He was baptized to identify with them, showing that He needed the sinner's bath just like them. Not for His sin, but for the day when He took their sin.
- Jesus then became spiritually dead, to identify with us. This happened on the cross. He became one with us in our sin. Jesus actually called this a baptism (Luke

12.50) and He was immersed into our sin and selfishness. He bore our sins (I Peter 2.24)

- When we receive Christ, the Father puts us inside Christ at the moment He became sin, because that is when we match. That is when we identify with Him. We are baptized into Him. We are immersed into Him.
 - After your water baptism your first thing you do will normally be change your clothes. When you are baptized into Christ when you are born again you have been clothed with Christ (Gal. 3.27)
- We are then buried with Christ, then as Christ resurrected, our spirit was resurrected with Him. It is now one spirit with Him. It is now alive together with Him. We take on His identity, we are dead to our old life, we are now in a new life.
 - Water baptism is a picture of this.

Do I have to be baptized?

Or does baptism get you saved?

There's not really an easy way to answer this. It's like when I get married do I have to have sex? You don't have to get baptized, you get to! I find the question strange – what is the bare minimum I have to do being a Christian.

You get saved, you repent, you believe, you get water baptized, you receive the Holy Spirit. You do not need to get baptized to get saved, you only need faith to get saved. Only believe. But do you want to renew your mind and live as a disciple and change the world and remember that you are clean, and remember that you are dead and buried and resurrection, then yes – GET BAPTIZED. Do it the JESUS WAY!

The Name of Jesus

We baptize into the name of Jesus – that is letting people know their salvation, their new life can only come from Jesus, but it is also a reminder that when we are born again, we have the power and authority of His name.

The Jesus only controversy. Name of Jesus vs Father Son and Spirit. Do both. I do not mind if you baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, it is only one verse, but I do have a big concern if you do not believe in the Trinity, and some people will get concerned that is the case, so I would always do it to honour people and avoid confusion.

Who Do We Baptise?

You need to be born again. We do not baptise babies. We dedicate them, we bless them like Jesus did (Mark 10.13).

Baptism is not taking the place of circumcision – circumcision is the sign of a covenant you are born into and inheritance only goes to men. Baptism is the sign of a covenant that you believe into and is for male and female. They are not comparable!

You need to want to. We do not force baptism on people.

You do not need to know everything. The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized on day 1, as were the thousands in Acts 2. So, there is no need for classes. Just due to the amount of

tradition around, I like to do a 30–60-minute class with people to ensure they are born again.

Minimum age for baptism. For me it must be an age you can remember when you are older. And if you can convince me you are born again, you can be baptized. If you can obey you can be baptized.

We baptise in public, in the presence of many witnesses. Watching a baptism can really impact someone – believers can remember their baptism, remember they are dead, and remember they are clean, and remember they are resurrected. It's like a wedding where you remember your public commitment to your wife, and you want to get married all over again.

It is a way of going public with our faith and showing that we are not ashamed of being one with Jesus, with being His disciple. However, the public bit is not part of the meaning of baptism and not part of every baptism in Acts (Acts 8 – Eunuch)

Really you only need two people – a baptizer and a baptize, and we need water. And provided it is a Christian and done in the name of Jesus, it is a valid Biblical baptism. You do not need a dog collar or certificate or anything else.

Baptism should be ideally done in the context of local church. You are not just baptized into Christ when you are born again, but God sets you into the body of Christ.

You need to be in church, I want to say that, but I will move on from that, and say it tomorrow morning living in the light of eternity.

After Baptism

You will do something dirty again after you have been baptized. That can be traumatic! Do I need to be baptized again? Did it fail to work? You can end up disappointed. If you want to get baptized again – that will not work, you will end up getting baptized regularly. (Actually some churches will do that, others will wait until you are just about to die to do baptism!).

Jesus gave us the answer in John 13:10. You do not need a bath; you need your feet washed. We will get dirty in this world, and we need to repent, make course adjustments. We can remember our baptism in water and remember that it means we are alive and we are clean.

There is a second baptism that makes living clean easier. The baptism in the Holy Spirit which only Jesus can do, and we will look at that next week. If you do want to get baptised, please go to: www.tree.church/baptism

WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER PENTECOST 05 THE REPSONSE TO PENTECOST 02
BAPTISM IN WATER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What does the word BAPTISM mean?
2. Why should Christians get baptized?
3. How does a baptism tell the gospel story?
4. What baptism does water baptism point to?
5. Why is "every baptism a funeral service"?
6. Does baptism save anyone?
7. Why don't we at Tree of Life baptize babies?
8. Why don't you need baptized a second time?
9. Why do we still need our "feet washed" even though we are saved?
10. What about this message inspired, challenged or encouraged you the most?



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