CHURCH OF PRAYER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

DOCTRINAL STUDIES – FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING

**LESSON 4: DOCTRINE OF WATER BAPTISM**

**CLASS NOTES**

**SUMMARY:**

The English word ***baptize*** comes from the Greek word ***baptizo*** which means “to immerse, submerge; to make whelm (i.e. fully wet).” [[1]](#footnote-1) Hence, baptism is immersion in water and not a mere sprinkling of water.

John’s baptism of repentance (a turning away from sin) was in preparation to the coming Messiah and His baptism in the Holy Spirit (empowerment to live in Christ victoriously against sin). Since Christ committed no sin, why did He permit John to baptize Him in the baptism of repentance? Jesus’ willingness to be baptized symbolized Christ (1) identifying with the sinner in need of repentance since He represented the One who bore our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21); (2) endorsing John’s ministry of baptism (Matthew 3:13); and (3) Jesus’ baptism fulfilled all righteousness (Matthew 3:14-15).

As Christians, we believe that baptism or immersion into the water symbolizes Christ’s death and burial while coming out of the water symbolizes His resurrection.

**Romans 6:3-6:** “Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him,* that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

**Colossians 2:11-12: “**In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sinsof the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Therefore, we partake in baptism not because we think that it will remove the filth of the flesh (it does not wash away our sins. See 1 Peter 3:21), but as an act of our obedience to Christ Jesus. When reading **Mark 16:15-16**, a person might think, “If I don’t get baptized, I am not saved and will be condemned.” But that’s not what the Scripture is saying. Let’s take a closer look at that passage: “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; **but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”** (If you have questions concerning salvation, revisit Chapter 2: The Assurance of Salvation.)

Based on the above scripture, we note that baptism is not a requirement for salvation; however, according to **1 Peter 3:21**, it is “the answer of a good conscience towards God.” We, therefore, willingly follow Christ’s example of obedience by also being baptized in water.

There are only two requirements of baptism:

1. **Repent**. **Acts 2:37-38:** “Now when they heard *this,* they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
2. **Believe. Acts 8:26-39:** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

### MEMORY VERSE: Act 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

**SCRIPTURES:**

## Read Matthew 3:11: John’s Baptism was unto repentance and salvation while Jesus’ Baptism sealed us with the Holy Spirit and Fire. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, to be an example that we can follow and to reveal Himself as the Messiah and one who belongs to the Father.

**Read Matthew 3:13-17:** John didn’t understand why Jesus, who was greater than him, came to John to be baptized. Jesus allowed John to baptize Him to fulfill all righteousness. When Jesus was baptized, Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. God was pleased with His Son.

### Read Matthew 28:19-20: We are commissioned to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the authority in the Triune Godhead. This requires our obedience to all Jesus commands in order to teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded.

**Read Acts 2:36-39:** Once the veil is removed from our mind and our hearts, we come into an understanding of who Jesus is and what His life and death meant for mankind; then we are able to offer up genuine repentance, submit to baptism for the remission of our sins and position ourselves for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Read Acts 2:40-41:** Hearing the Word of God should penetrate our hearts and produce an act of obedience to God’s instructions.

**Read Acts 8:36-37:** Partial obedience is as dangerous as partial faith. For where there is an absence of faith doubt exists. We are to engage our whole heart in loving God and believing Him. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

### LIFE APPLICATION:

You have arrived at the local river to be baptized. When you arrive, you discover that there are three different baptisms being offered.

**Baptism A** – Sprinkles the individual with water.

**Baptism B** – Pours water over the upper portion of the individual’s body.

**Baptism C** – Immerses the individual completely under water.

As a believer of the doctrine of Jesus Christ, which baptism would you choose and why?

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**HOMEWORK**

**MONDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Acts 2:38.**
* **Read Romans 6:3-5** and **Colossians 2:11-12** and answer the following:
  + What action is taken by a believer that is symbolic to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection?

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* In your own words, briefly explain how water baptism illustrates a believer’s identification with Christ in each of the following:
  1. His death: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  2. His burial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  3. His resurrection: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### TUESDAY:

* Study your memory verse **Acts 2:38**
* Read the following passages of Scripture and write down who was being baptized and the ***key words*** in each Scripture that would indicate full immersion in water took place.

1. **Matthew 3:16:**

Who was baptized? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Key Words \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Acts 8:39:**

Who was baptized?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Key Words\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **John 3:22-23:**

Who was baptized? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Key Words \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### WEDNESDAY:

* Study your memory verse **Acts 2:38**
* When we are baptized, we are making an outward confession or declaration of our inward faith. Read the following passages of Scripture and answer the following:
  + **Read Matthew 10:32.** What blessing can we expect because of our public confession of Jesus Christ?

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* + **Read Romans 6:4.** Why would baptism into death (burying our old way of life to sin) produce newness of life (being raised up in our new nature) for the believer?

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* + **Read Matthew 28:19-20**. In whose name are we to be baptized in?

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* + **Read Galatians 3:26-27**. In your own words, explain what you believe is meant by the words, “have put on Christ.”

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### THURSDAY

* Study your memory verse **Acts 2:38**
* Read the following passages of Scripture concerning the baptism of John the Baptist.
  + Draw a line matching the passage of Scripture in Column A with the appropriate description in Column B.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Column A** |  | **Column B** |
| 1. John 1:33 |  | a. John’s baptism was rejected by the Pharisees and lawyers. |
| 2. Luke 7:30 |  | b. John’s baptism was  unto repentance for remission of sins |
| 3. Mark 1:4-5 |  | c. John was sent by God to baptize. |
| 4. Matthew 3:5-6 |  | d. John’s baptism produced confession of sins |

**FRIDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Acts 2:38.**
* Answer the following two questions pertaining to your memory verse.
  + How can you use the memory verse Scripture in your daily walk?

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* + How can you use the memory verse Scripture to teach others God’s Word?

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**SATURDAY:**

* Write your memory verse **Acts 2:38** by memory.

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* Study your notes in preparation for your test tomorrow.

1. Strong’s Greek Lexicon # 907. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)