



LESSON 3: BAPTISM

Christians know that they are saved by grace, through faith and not by their works. They know that they will spend an eternity with God based on what Jesus did on the cross. God does not save us **BY** good works, but He saves us **FOR** good works (Ephesians 2:10). Those were prepared beforehand for us.

Water baptism is one of those good works. It is one of the first steps of obedience in our relationship with Him. Let's discover what the Bible teaches about water baptism.

1. What is baptism?

Matthew 28:19 ^(ESV) - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

It is a command.

a) Jesus commanded his disciples to make other disciples. According to Matthew 28:19, what were they to do with them?

b) What decision did the new followers of Christ have to make?

2. Who must be baptized?

Acts 2:41 ^(ESV) - *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

In the context of this verse, we see the apostle Peter preaching the gospel.

- Which of the following sentences has the correct order?
 - They got baptized first, then they received the message.
 - They received the message first, then they got baptized.

There is no indication in the Bible that a person was baptized in water before receiving Christ as Savior. Through baptism we make a public statement of our identity with Jesus Christ. We say to the church and the world that now we belong to the family of God.

- According to the Bible, who should be baptized?
 - A child
 - Anyone
 - Those who have believed in Christ (the person who is saved)
 - Those committed to the church

3. How do we baptize?

a) By immersion.

Mark 1:9-10 ^(ESV) - ⁹*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.* ¹⁰*And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

- John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River (v. 10). What phrase indicates that Jesus was baptized by immersion?

b) As soon as possible.

Acts 16:30-33 ^(ESV) - ³⁰*Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"* ³¹*And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."* ³²*And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.* ³³*And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.*

- When were the jailer and his family baptized?
 - On the following day
 - The same day they received Christ as Savior
 - Weeks later
- What did Paul and Silas explain to the jailer before he and his family were baptized? (v. 30-32)

c) By another believer.

Matthew 28:16-20 ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- How many disciples were with Jesus at this moment?
- What four verbs describe the nature of this great commission?

The disciples were to teach everything that Jesus had taught them.

- Was baptizing others a part of it?
Yes No
- Am I instructed to be baptized and to baptize others?
Yes No

MY STEP OF OBEDIENCE

I understand that water baptism is a command given by Christ and it is a step of obedience to God.

I have received Christ as my Savior, I know that I am saved and united with Christ forever.

I am willing to be baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Agree with your discipler on the following:

Date of baptism: _____

Place: _____

Baptized by: _____



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