

Baptism Study

Cedarcreek Community Church

Introduction

When a person trusts in Jesus Christ as their Savior, one important step of obedience that he/she should take is to get baptized. When we believe in Christ, God cleanses us from our sins, and He enters into our lives in the person of the Holy Spirit.

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession..."

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

This is what the Bible refers to as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This happens to everyone who places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins and to cleanse them from all their wrong thoughts, deeds, words and attitudes. The Bible then commands those who have trusted Christ to demonstrate that trust by being baptized in water. This is something an adult (approximately age 12 and up) must choose of his/her own free will, because it is only as adults that we can personally choose the gift of our Savior. There is a lot of confusion in our society today because many churches teach and practice infant baptism. Many people have been baptized as children by their parents and don't see the need to be baptized as adults. The purpose of this study is to help you look into God's word to see what God has to say about baptism. Cedarcreek is committed to following the Bible, as close as we know how, for our faith and practice. Sometimes we have to cut through man's traditions to do so. Let us dig into His word and see what is taught about the subject of baptism.

Why Be Baptized?

- 1) To follow the example set by _____? Mark 1:9
- 2) Because Christ _____ it. Matthew 28:19-20
- 3) It demonstrates that I am a _____. Acts 18:8

How Are We To Be Baptized?

- 1) Was Jesus baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling? Mark 1:9-10
- 2) In Acts 8:38-39, in what way was the Ethiopian official baptized? _____

The Greek word baptizo means "to immerse or to dip". In New Testament times, the Greek people used the word to refer to baptizing a cup in dishwater. It was used in the dying industry whereby white cloth was baptized into a dye and came out a completely different color. The meaning of the word shows that baptism should be by full immersion.

The founders of major denominations agree:

Martin Luther - "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin - "the word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley - "Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

When Should We Be Baptized?

- 1) How soon after they believed were the following people baptized?
 - a) 3000 people in Acts 2:41 _____
 - b) Ethiopian official in Acts 8:35-38 _____
 - c) Paul in Acts 9:17-19 _____

d) Philippian jailer in Acts 16:32-33 _____

2) Were any of these people baptized before they personally trusted Christ? Yes No

3) Did any of these people wait in order to get their life straightened out? Yes No

You should get baptized as soon after you believe as is possible. As soon as you decide to believe in Christ you can and should be baptized. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you "clean up your life" you will never get there and you will have missed the reason for baptism. It symbolizes what Christ has already done by giving (baptizing) you His Holy Spirit. It does not mean that you have "now arrived" and are a good Christian.

Where Should We Be Baptized?

1) Where was the Ethiopian official baptized? Acts 8:26,36-38 _____

2) Where did John the Baptist baptize? Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:23 _____

A person can be baptized any place where there is enough water. It is not necessary to have it take place in a church building or in a baptismal fount.

Spiritual Significance of Baptism

1) What is the basis of our salvation? Titus 3:5-7 _____

2) In Acts 10:47-48, who did Peter say should be baptized? _____

3) What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer when he asked what he needed to do to get saved in Acts 16:31?

*Believe in Christ and keep all His commandments

*Believe in Christ and be baptized

*Believe in Christ

4) Baptism symbolizes what two things? Romans 6:3-7 _____

a) What is the believer dying to? _____

b) What is the believer rising to? _____

Baptism is also a public testimony identifying a believer with Christ. In New Testament times, slaves were often baptized after they were sold. This showed the community that the slave now belonged to a new master. In the same way, a believer is declaring to everyone that he now belongs to Christ.