

# ***BAPTISM***



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## 2 IN SUMMARY

To summarize then, Baptism is:

1. An act of simple obedience to the command of Christ.
2. A witness to the authority of the Bible.
3. A testimony to personal salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. A rejection of human interference in things spiritual. It is a repudiation of unscriptural modes of baptism practiced without Divine authority.
5. An acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ.
6. An identification with the practice of the New Testament Church.
7. A declaration of the fundamental truths of the Gospel. In baptism, the Believer is testifying to the fact that he has identified himself with the DEATH OF CHRIST, who took his place on the Cross. His old life of sin and self-centeredness has been BURIED forever, and he now lives in the power of Christ's RESURRECTION life.

## 3 WHY NOT YOU?

If you are a truly born-again Christian, you ought to obey the Lord and make public confession of your faith in Christ in His own appointed way – by being baptised.

If you would like to get baptised, please notify the Pastor and he will contact you.

## 1 THINKING ABOUT BELIEVER'S BAPTISM?

This booklet sets out to answer the most frequently asked questions about Baptism.

### 1.1 What is The Significance of Baptism?

Baptism is one of the most significant and solemn ordinances of the Christian Church. It is not merely a trivial tradition inherited from primitive Christianity. It is not some insignificant practice, some outdated observance which can be ignored by the general run of Christian people.

Baptism is important; so important that the Son of God walked sixty miles to be baptised by John in the Jordan. It is so important that Jesus practiced baptism throughout His ministry, and He “made and baptised more disciples than John” (*Although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised, but his disciples.*) (John 4:1)

It is so important that one of the last things Jesus said to his followers was; “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”. (Mathew 28:19)

If baptism is so important then it is essential for every Christian to know what the Bible teaches concerning it and to find the answers to the questions which every sincere Christian must ask.

### 1.2 Is “Infant Sprinkling” Right?

The practice of ‘baptising’ babies, with all due respect, has no Biblical authority.

The Lord Jesus certainly took the little ones in His arms and blessed them, but on no occasion did He advocate the ‘baptism’ of babies. Neither the Apostles, nor the new Testament Church, practiced infant baptism and it is the testimony of historians that only towards the end of the third century, did the church begin to deviate from the Scriptural concept of baptism.

The practice of “Infant Sprinkling” is NOT CORRECT because:

- It is based on tradition and not revelation. The Christian's authority is the Bible and to accept ‘infant baptism’ we must go outside the Bible and accept the opinions of men rather than the directive of Scripture.
- It is the means of giving false hope to multitudes of people. The Prayer Book reads; “Seeing now, dearly beloved brethren, that this child is regenerate ....” “...we yield Thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased Thee to regenerate this infant with Thy Holy Spirit, to receive him for Thine own child by adoption, and to incorporate him into Thy Holy Church....”

- The Catechism states - “Who gave you this name? My godfather and godmother in my baptism, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Multitudes of people today rely upon the fact that they have been christened and confirmed, believing that this has entitled them to acceptance before God.

### 1.3 Who are Qualified Candidates for Baptism?

In Acts 2:38 Peter replied to the enquiry of those seeking God, with the words “*Repent and be baptised...*”

The candidate for baptism has truly repented of sin, he has acknowledged his sinfulness and has sincerely turned away from it, and trusted God.

### 1.4 When Should Baptism Take Place?

- AFTER conversion, when we know we have received Christ.
- We may be baptised when young or when an adult but not in infancy because we cannot then, have turned to Christ consciously.
- Baptism is a sign that something HAS happened, like a badge we wear when attending school. (*Acts 8:37*) and (*Mark 16:15 & 16*).

### 1.5 What Is The Method of Baptism?

- The word “BAPTISE” means “TO IMMERSE”. It is used of the sinking of a ship, the dyeing of cloth or the washing of hands.
- People were baptised in RIVERS in New Testament times. (*John 3:23*).
- Baptism is a picture of GOING DOWN into the grave, and RISING AGAIN in newness of life. (*Romans 6:1 onwards*).

How can any method other than immersion depict this?

### 1.6 What Are The Reasons for Baptism?

- Because Christ COMMANDED it. (*Matthew 28:19*)
- Because Christ SET US AN EXAMPLE. (*Matthew 3:15*)
- Because the Apostles practiced it. (*Acts 2:41; 8:12,36; 10:48*)
- Because of what it means.

### 1.7 What is The Meaning of Baptism?

There is no magic about Believer’s Baptism as you have in some views of infant baptism, being baptised alone does not save you.

- It is a WITNESS to the church, the world, the powers of darkness and, above all, to God, that you are deliberately aligning yourself with Jesus Christ. (*Galatians 3:27*)
- It is a picture showing that you have been cleansed from sin.
- It symbolizes your CRUCIFIXION and RESURRECTION with Christ. The pool is, in picture language, a grave. (*Romans 6:3-6*) and (*Col. 2:12*).

### 1.8 What Are The Benefits of Baptism?

The Bible does not teach that baptism saves the sinner. Neither does the water of the baptistery wash away one single sin or have any mystical effect upon the believer. There are however, some priceless rewards awaiting those who, being truly committed, are baptised in the Scriptural way.

1. There is the reward of love. (*John 14:21*) “*Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me... I will show myself to him.*”
2. There is the reward of obedience. (*Genesis 22:17*) “*I will surely bless you ... because you have obeyed me.*”
3. There is the reward of discipleship. (*John 12:26*) “*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be .... My Father will honour.*”
4. There is the reward of Confession. (*Mathew 10:32*) “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*”