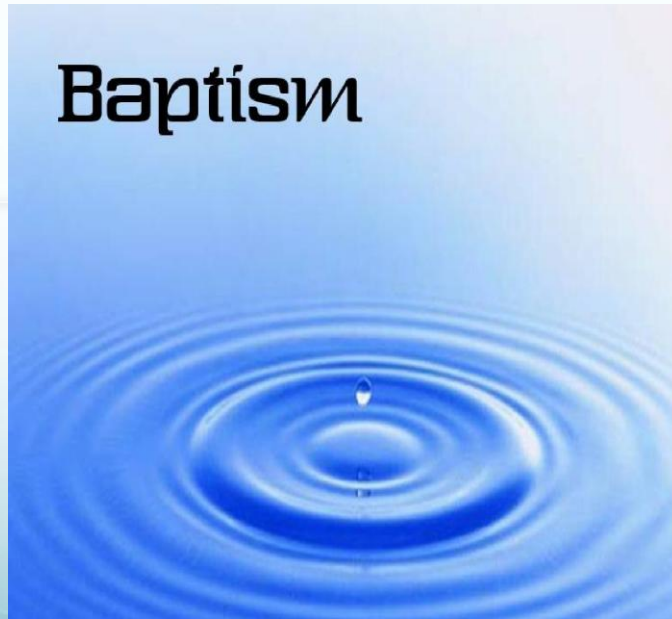


WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

Baptism



1. What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

- *Literally* – “to **dip**”, “to immerse”, or “to sink”
- *Symbolically* – “**identification**”

Type Of Baptism	Scripture	Identification
<i>Israel's Baptism into Moses</i>	1 Cor 10:2	Identified with Moses & Deliverance
<i>John The Baptist's Baptism</i>	Matthew 3:6,11	Identified with Repentance of Sin
<i>Jesus' Baptism</i>	Matthew 3:13-16	Identified sinners who would receive Christ's righteousness & forgiveness
<i>Holy Spirit's Baptism</i>	1 Cor 12:13	Identifies with the Body of Christ at Salvation (Church)
<i>Believer's Baptism</i>	Acts 2:41; 8:36-38	Identifies with Christ's Death, Burial & Resurrection after Salvation

2. What Are The Seven Baptisms In The Bible And What Do They Mean?

Baptism



Baptism Into Moses

- Israel identified with their spiritual leader (Moses) and his deliverance (victory)
- **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ

John The Baptist's Baptism

- Identified with need to repent of sin and trust in coming Savior
- **Matthew 3:11** “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Acts 18:24-25

- Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Jesus' Baptism

- **The Messiah identified with sinners who would obtain His righteousness and forgiveness**
- **Matthew 3:13-17** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water,

Isaiah 53:11

- Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Fire Baptism

- **Sinners will be judged by fire**
- **Matthew 3:11-12** 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Baptism of the Cross

- **Jesus' suffering on the cross for the penalty of man's sins**
- **Mark 10:38-40** 38 “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

Holy Spirit Baptism

- **At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit places the believer in the Body of Christ.**
- **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Believer's Baptism

- **After salvation, we identify with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.**
- **Acts 2:41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

3. What Is The Message Of Baptism?

- ***An Identification With Christ*** – Romans 6 depicts how the immersion of a believer is a picture of Jesus' death (vv. 3,5), burial (v.4) and resurrection (vv. 4,5,8)
- ***A Public Testimony*** – A believer's baptism a testimony to the world, family, friends and church that he/she has put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

4. What Is The Relationship Between Baptism And Salvation?



Baptism

Salvation is totally God's work, not man's work in any way.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Baptism is distinguished from the Gospel.

- **1 Corinthians 1:17** “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”

In the New Testament, individuals were baptized after they were saved.

- **Acts 8:36-38** “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...and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

If someone sincerely had faith in Christ as his/her Savior but didn't have the opportunity to be baptized, would they still go to heaven? Yes.

- **Luke 23:42-43** “Then he (the thief on the cross) said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”

Why Do Some People Believe That Baptism Is A Requirement For Salvation?



Understanding The Difference Between Spirit Baptism & Water Baptism

Spiritual Baptism	Water Baptism
Holy Spirit's Work	Man's Work
At Salvation	After Salvation
Internal Identification In Christ	Visible Identification With Christ
Necessary For Salvation	Testimonial To Salvation
Spiritual Renovation	External Emblem

Passage	Inconsistent Interpretation	Consistent Interpretation
Acts 2:38	baptized for (<i>for the purpose of</i>) <i>salvation</i>	baptized for (<i>on the basis of</i>) salvation
Mark 16:15-16	belief + baptism = salvation	emphasis that belief is necessary for salvation and non-belief is basis for condemnation – baptism mentioned only as an external symbol
Acts 22:6	baptize = washing away of sin	grammatical construction connects “wash away sins” to “calling on his name”
1 Peter 3:21	water immersion removes dirt from flesh	Peter refers to believer being immersed in Christ’s death & resurrection
John 3:5	“born of water” = salvation by baptism	water = physical birth, Word of God or another analogy to the Holy Spirit
Titus 3:5	“washing of regeneration” = baptism	washing – done by HS through the Word of God, not water; besides this verse says: “not by works of righteousness which we have don”

5. Why Do Some Churches Baptize Babies?

- Roman Catholic teaching of “Limbo of the Innocent”
- Infant baptism identifies baby as Catholic and places them under RC Church’s authority

Protestant Paedobaptists

- Infant baptism initiates membership into “Covenant Family” later to be confirmed in Catechism
- Reform theology not distinguish Israel and Church, thus infant baptism is the new circumcision
- Anabaptists (*ana* = again) countered paedobaptism by rebaptizing genuinely converted believers though they were baptized as infants

Baptism in the Early Church

Believers

- SECOND CENTURY**
- 110 Barnabas—"Those who place their hope in the cross"
(*Epistle of Barnabas* 11.8)
- 160 Justin Martyr—"Those who are persuaded and believe"
(*First Apology*, chapter 61)
- THIRD CENTURY**
- 220 Tertullian—opposed infant baptism (*On Baptism* 18)
- 220 Hippolytus—only believers (*The Apostolic Tradition* v. 13)

Infants

- 220 Irenaeus—earliest reference to infant baptism
(*Against All Heresies* II. 22.4)
- 230 Origen—earliest to claim apostolic custom (*Homily on Luke* 14.5)
- 250 Cyprian—earliest explicit defense for newborn babes (*Epistle* 58)
- FOURTH CENTURY**
- 350 *Apostolic Constitutions*—the first explicit command (VI.15)
- FIFTH CENTURY**
- 430 Augustine—used as an argument for original sin against Pelagius

Infant baptism is by this time a general practice

6. What Is The Relationship Between Baptism And The Believer?