

BAPTISM Notes
ROMANS 6:1-11
INTRODUCTION

The First thing that Jesus did at the beginning of His public ministry, was to identify with the will of God for His life in baptism.

Matt. 3:13-15 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbad Him saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him. Suffer(allow) it to be so now; for thus it BECOMETH US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. Then John suffered Him.

"His works were the works of the Father. His words were the words of His Father." One of the LAST things Jesus did before returning to His Father was to give the great commission. He said to His disciples- **"Go ye therefore and teach all nations (win souls), baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."** Matt. 28:19-20

We can begin reading in the book of Acts and continue through the entire New Testament and we will not find one single instance where anyone was saved and refused to follow Christ in believer's baptism. The true significance of baptism we will clearly see that baptism is not **SACRAMENTAL**, or saving, but **SYMBOLIC**. Also, we will understand why baptism is not for **BABIES**, but for **BELIEVERS**. Then we will see why the proper mode of baptism is not **SPRINKLING**, but **SUBMERGING**.

I. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is our identification with Christ - in His death, in His burial, and in His resurrection. Please read this passage of scripture carefully-

Romans 6:1-11¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Bible teaches that our identification with Christ has a **PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE CONFESSION OF FAITH**

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached... For I declared unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures. And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once..." (I Corinthians 15:1-6)

No one can be a Christian who does not believe the Gospel. When a person is baptized, he is confessing his faith in a **PAST EVENT DECLARATION OF INTENT**.

As to the **present**, baptism is a declaration of intent. **COLOSSIANS 2:6-7** "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord (by faith), so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

PROCLAMATION OF HOPE

As to the future, baptism is a proclamation of Hope. **I John 3:2** "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be (like), but we know that when He (Jesus) shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

Philipians 3:20-21 "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven from whence we also look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body..."

I Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

II. WHERE SHOULD ONE BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible says in the Gospel of John, "And John was baptizing in Enon near to Salim, because there was much water there..."

Only in immersion can we see the picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

III. WHEN SHOULD ONE BE BAPTIZED?

You cannot achieve sinless perfection. If you could do so, Jesus came and died in vain. Even children have the right to be baptized.

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received the Word were baptized: and the SAME DAY there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Please note that **all three thousand people were baptized on the same day** that they were saved.

IV. WHY SHOULD ONE BE BAPTIZED?

Then Peter said, "**Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?" (Acts 10:47)**

We are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by the water. One should be baptized because he is saved, not in order to be saved.

Please note the preposition "for" that Peter uses. It is the Greek preposition "eis" (Pronounced "ice"). It can be translated in any one of these three ways: "for", "onto", and "because of or on the basis of." What Peter was saying in this message was,

"REPENT TOWARD GOD (SURRENDER TO GOD'S AUTHORITY), PUT FAITH IN JESUS FOR SALVATION, AND THEN BE BAPTIZED "BECAUSE" YOUR SINS ARE REMITTED AND YOU ARE SAVED."

Salvation does not come by going under the water and getting wet. Only the blood of Christ can do that, as you trust His death on the cross as a payment for your sin. **One should be baptized in order to publicly acknowledge that he has been saved, not in order to be saved.**

V. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Only saved people should be baptized, only those who believe in Christ for salvation.

Phillip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I understand without someone to guide me?" "And as they went on their way they came to a certain body of water: and the Ethiopian said, "See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" And Phillip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and went down both into the water, both Phillip and the Ethiopian; and he baptized him." (Acts 8:30-38)

Who should be baptized? Here we find the answer clearly stated **those who believe on Christ with all their heart.**

Phillip said, "**If you believe with all your heart you may be baptized.**" Can babies understand the Gospel and believe? Do they have the capacity to conceive the truth of sin and salvation? Of course not. Then they cannot believe. Not until they reach the level of maturity when they can understand, can they believe. Until then they are not accountable for their sinful nature.

CONCLUSION

God tells the unsaved to believe. "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**" **For by grace you are saved through faith.**" And the object of faith is Jesus. Believe on Him that is God's command to you.

Now after you are saved God's command to you is to obey.

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 16:31 (AMP) ³¹And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus *Christ* [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.

Acts 11:17-18 (KJV) ¹⁷Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? ¹⁸When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.