
BAPTISM

LESSON FOUR

The word "baptism" comes directly from the Greek language in which the New Testament was written. It comes from the word 'baptizo' in the Greek, which means literally "to dip, submerge, immerse." There is another word in the original language that means to "sprinkle" --*rhantizo*. Significantly, the only word used for Christian baptism in the New Testament is *baptizo*, never *rhantizo*.

Is this important? Yes. Because we want to do what He tells us to do, and the way He tells us to do it. Jesus commanded all believers to be baptized "*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" (Matthew 28:19). This is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord. We ought to be baptized because Christ told us to.

But why is the mode or method of water baptism important? Because only baptism by immersion pictures a death, burial, and resurrection. And water baptism is meant to be a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is a symbol or visible illustration of the Gospel that "*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ...he was buried, and ...he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*" (1 Cor. 15:3,4). Water baptism is the believer's identification with Christ and a public testimony of his faith in Christ, as well as an act of obedience to Jesus as Lord. Water baptism and the Lord's table, or communion, are recognized by most Christians as the two ordinances of the local church.

It is very important to understand that one should be baptized **after** his salvation -- not before. This is why we refer to baptism as "Believer's Baptism." All of the New Testament Scriptures teach that those who received Christ as Savior were then baptized to show what had already happened in their lives (Acts 2:41; 8:38; 16:33).

Scriptural baptism is by immersion, in water, after salvation, by the pastor of a Bible believing church. What a joy to submit to baptism because Jesus commanded it.

TRUTH IN REVIEW: (Look up the verses)

The Greek word baptizo means to dip or immerse (Acts 8:37,39). Believers are baptized simply because Jesus our Lord commanded it (Matt. 28:18-20).

Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord (John 14:15). Water baptism pictures a death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-6).

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip or _____.
2. Water baptism pictures _____, _____, and _____.
3. Water baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ as _____.
4. Immersion was the mode or method of _____ in the New Testament.
5. The two ordinances of the local church are the Lord's Table and _____.

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6. Being baptized is a command of _____ (Matt. 28:18-20).
 7. A Christian is kept by God and preserved in _____
(Jude 1:1).
 8. Baptism is ordained by God for all _____
(Acts 8:37).

OTHER PASSAGES:

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:41; 8:35-39; Romans 6:1-6.

ANSWERS:

Lesson 4: 1. Immersion 2. Death, Burial, Resurrection 3. Lord 4. Baptism
5. Baptism 6. Jesus 7. Jesus Christ 8. Believers

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

Bible--Begin with the Gospel of John (which you've read)
and the Book of Psalms

Pilgrim's Progress--Second best seller of all time
after the Bible.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance--Bible study help

Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret--Missionary biography

A Shepherd Takes a Look at the 23rd Psalm--Philip Keller

Family Foundations--Paul Meier/Richard Meier

Be Joyful--Warren Wiersbe