

# BAPTISM

Understanding the New Testament Teaching



# SERMON 1

*We hear baptism merely as the “first step of obedience.” But when we look at what the Scriptures say about baptism, there is so much more to this than simply the “first step of obedience.”*

What are the two marks of disciple-making found in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20?

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How is baptism presented in Matthew 28:19-20?

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### **The Background to Baptism**

Why did the Israelites understand what John the Baptist was doing when he was baptizing people in the Jordan River?

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Why did the Jews practice baptism?

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What did baptism signify to the Jews during John the Baptist's time?

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**The Baptism of John in Matthew 3:5-12**

According to Matthew 3:6, what were the people doing when they were getting baptized?

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What does the phrase, "I baptize you with water for repentance" in verse 11 mean?

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What is the relationship between baptism and repentance?

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**The Baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:13-17**

What does the phrase "to fulfill all righteousness" in verse 15 mean?

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What are the two reasons Jesus got baptized?

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### 3 Important Takeaways from the Background to Baptism

1) When John the Baptist comes on the scene baptizing, the Jews \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ what he meant.

2) Baptism signified \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Baptism was \_\_\_\_\_.

## SERMON 2

*Baptism was a big deal to the New Testament church. And I'm afraid like so many other things that we do in church, baptism's place has been extremely downplayed.*

### The New Testament Pattern

Who was baptized in Acts 2:41?

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What does what Peter said in Acts 10:47-48 imply?

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Compiling all the passages in Acts together, who should be baptized?

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## **Baptismal Regeneration?**

What is baptismal regeneration?

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Does 1 Peter 3:21-22 support the idea of baptismal regeneration?

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How is the concept of baptism being used in 1 Peter 3:21-22?

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*He is not talking about the ritual of baptism - the act of being washed in the water.  
Rather, he is looking at what this act represents.*

## SERMON 3

*How strong of a conviction do you have about baptism? How willing are you to stand up  
for what you believe in regards to this important part of the Christian life?*

### **A Protestant Practice**

Is any baby ever baptized in the New Testament?

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What is the earliest clear reference we have to infant baptism?

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For those evangelicals who do baptize babies, they believe baptism replaces what from Old Testament Israel?

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3 important observations from Colossians 2:11-12:

1) The correlation that Paul is drawing is between baptism and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2) Circumcision is \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The outward act of baptism signified \_\_\_\_\_ of verse 12.

### **The Meaning of Baptism**

The word translated “in” in Matthew 28:19 should be best understood as what?

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According to Matthew 28:19, what is a person declaring in baptism?

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According to Romans 6:4, what is a person declaring in baptism?

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*We are declaring through baptism, not only our allegiance to Christ,  
but to the fact that God has done an amazing work in us.*

# YOUR TESTIMONY

At the event of your baptism, you will be given the opportunity to publicly profess your faith in Christ. It would be good for you write out your testimony, for that helps in keeping it brief, but to the point. You will also find that it will calm your nerves as you have written out exactly what you want to say. There is no need to memorize it. You may take the paper into the baptismal with you and read it as written.

To help clarify what you want to testify about, two themes should be evident in every testimony. The first and most important theme is the gospel message which you have believed. The gospel centers on who Jesus is and what He has done for you in regard to salvation. You should present a clear statement of your faith in Jesus Christ as God's provision for you as a sinner. The reason is twofold: (1) Jesus Christ is honored as He is given the preeminent place in the role of salvation and in your life; (2) your testimony will encourage the saints and also possibly be used by God in bringing someone to salvation.

The second theme is the personal story that pertains to how you, as an individual, came to believe the Gospel and trust in Jesus Christ. This story might include a little background on the belief system you were raised with, your initial reasons for seeking out Jesus, your perception of your view of God and of yourself, and any circumstances that directly led you to realize that you were not acceptable to God.

After writing out your testimony, read it out loud several times, and time yourself. The more you practice reading the less nervous you will be.