



Global College of Ministry

EXPLAIN

The Christian and Salvation (Water Baptism)

After Repentance, What Next?

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

Repentance is not complete without baptism. The Bible teaches that we should repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38, Luke 24:47, Mark 16:16). Repentance and baptism go hand-in-hand. They should not be separated or divided. “They are experienced together, accomplishing God’s full work of forgiveness in the heart of the believer.” (Woodward, What Happens at Repentance.)

Believing leads to baptism.

- ☒ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
- ☒ “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12).
- ☒ “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8).

The Gospels close with Jesus’ command to baptize all nations (Matthew 28:19). The first message preached by the apostles, on the birthday of the church, resulted in a command for everyone to be baptized (Acts 2:38). Therefore, water baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ. In the Early Church, people were baptized immediately after believing. Philip told the Ethiopian he could be baptized if “...thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest” (Acts 8:37).

Jesus expressed the importance of water baptism when he instructed Nicodemus, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

All Biblical accounts of baptism are by immersion. Jesus Himself set an example of immersion (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:4-5). The word baptize comes from a Greek word “baptizo” which means to dip, immerse, or plunge. Immersion is a big word but means to go completely under water.

- ☒ “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23).
- ☒ “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39).

- ☑ “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Romans 6:4-5).

Baptism is essential for salvation.

- ☑ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
- ☑ “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” (1 Peter 3:21).



HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Believing leads to water baptism by immersion and is essential for salvation.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Is this what the Bible teaches?			
Is this what you believe?			
Is this what your church teaches?			

Study Questions

1. Write in full, one Scripture (with reference) that supports each of the following statements.

1) Repentance and baptism go hand-in-hand. _____

2) Believing leads to baptism. _____

3) The Gospels close with Jesus' command to baptize all nations. _____

4) Jesus Himself set an example of baptism by immersion. _____

5) The first message preached by the apostles on the birthday of the church, resulted in a command for everyone to be baptized. _____

6) In the early church, people were baptized immediately after believing. _____

7) Jesus expressed the importance of water baptism when He instructed Nicodemus. _____

8) Baptism is essential for salvation. _____

9) Immersion means to go completely under water, and is the Bible method of baptism. _____

Additional Notes

Baptism Is To Be Done in Jesus Name

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”
(Galatians 3:27).

Ron Schoolcraft in *A Fresh Look at Matthew 28:19* states that this verse is one of the best verses in the Bible for baptism in Jesus name. A simple question to be asked is, “What is the name?” The answer is simply, yet profoundly, “Jesus.” “The crystal- clear proof is found in the Book of Acts where the apostles obeyed Matthew 28:19 by baptizing in the name of Jesus!” The disciples were not merely asked to repeat a formula, titles, or words. They were told to baptize in the name. Every account of baptism in the New Testament Church was done in the name of Jesus. Peter, the first preacher, given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:18), used the name of Jesus in baptism.

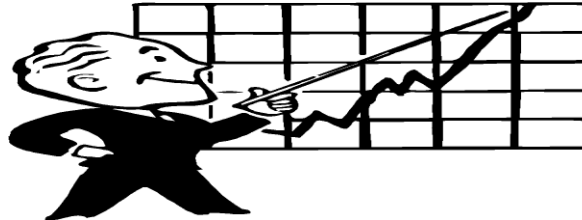
- ☑ “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).
- ☑ “(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus)” (Acts 8:16).
- ☑ “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days” (Acts 10:48).
- ☑ “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5).
- ☑ “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).
- ☑ “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).
- ☑ “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

Why did Jesus command to baptize in “the name?”

- ☑ His name is above every name (Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:21).
- ☑ There is salvation in no other name (Acts 4:10-12).
- ☑ Whatever you do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).
- ☑ We are washed in the name of the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11). (*Two Important Questions In Life – Search for Truth*)

The Apostle Paul was so convinced that baptism in Jesus name was necessary that he rebaptized some believers in the name of Jesus (Acts 19:1-5).

Baptism remits sin. The blood of Jesus Christ is necessary to remit sin (Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:7). The only Biblical way to receive remission of sin is through baptism in Jesus name (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38).



HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Water baptism is to be done in name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Is this what the Bible teaches?			
Is this what you believe?			
Is this what your church teaches?			

Study Questions

1. List four (4) reasons (with Scripture reference) why Jesus commanded to be baptized in "the name."

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

2. Write each of the following Scripture references about baptism in "the name" in full.

1) Luke 24:47 _____

2) Acts 19:5 _____

Additional Notes

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Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus

“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost’
(Acts 2:38).

What Is Baptism?

“Baptism” comes from a Greek word *baptizo*, which means “immersed, plunged into, or completely covered.” Immersion is the only mode of baptism the Bible records.

John immersed Jesus: *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”* (Matthew 3:16). *“And straightway, coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened”* (Mark 1:10). Philip immersed the Ethiopian eunuch when he baptized him: *“And when they were come out of the water, the spirit of the Lord caught away Philip”* (Acts 8:38-39).

Christian water baptism is a ceremony where one who has repented of his sins is immersed in water. This is a personal step of obedience taken by a repented soul.

Why Should We Baptize?

Water baptism held a crucial position of importance in the Old Testament plan of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. God gave them this plan, and it included a type of baptism – the washing of the priests in the brazen laver before they could enter the Holy Place (Leviticus 8:6; Exodus 30:19-21).

- 📖 In the New Testament, water baptism is also an essential ingredient. As our memory verse says, this baptism is not just for getting wet, but for the remission of sins, and must be applied with a specific formula.
- 📖 In the Old Testament, Leviticus 16 says it was important that the priest was dressed and washed correctly before he offered the sin and burnt offerings, and before he entered the Holy Place. He entered the Holy Place once a year, for the atonement of the sins of the people. This chapter gives special instructions to the priesthood. Aaron’s sons were killed when they did not carefully follow the instructions of the Lord concerning this sacred ritual of atonement. God does not approve those who do not know His instructions and follow them carefully.
- 📖 Hebrews 9:22 says: *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* Remission of sins is provided:
 - By the name of Jesus, who shed His blood on Calvary (Hebrews 9:12-15), and
 - By obedience to the instructions and example given to us by Jesus Himself.
- 📖 When we are obedient to the instructions given by Peter in Acts 2:38, we are committing an act of faith in Jesus Christ and the power of His blood to cleanse us from all sins.

Baptism is a type of burial as recorded by Paul in Romans 6:4-5: *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”*

In writing to the church at Rome, Paul was letting them know that the death they would experience was not like the one Jesus experienced, but was a death to the sinful nature with which they were born. And the calling of His name – Jesus – the One who shed His sinless blood – was what gave them a new life, a cleansing from past sins.

Baptism is a strong commandment of God’s Word; the Lord Himself spoke about it on several occasions:

- 📖 He told the ruler of the Jews, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, that there were special instructions for anyone who wanted to enter the kingdom of heaven: *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (John 3:5).
- 📖 After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the eleven and rebuked them because they didn’t believe those who had reported seeing Him alive again. Then He gave them this commission: *“Go ye into the all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover”* (Mark 16:15-18).
- 📖 Just as there were serious consequences in the Old Testament when the priest did not follow the instructions given by the Lord, the New Testament also records grave results for those who do not obey the Lord’s instructions regarding baptism:
 - *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16).
 - *“...baptism doth also now save us”* (1 Peter 3:21).

Let us be careful to obey the instructions of the Lord!

How Should We Baptize?

1. Follow the example of the Apostles.

Jesus asked His followers an important question one day. He said, *“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”* (Matthew 16:15). They gave various responses, and then Peter said, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16). When Jesus heard this, He was pleased and told Peter that flesh and blood had not revealed this to him.

He went on to give Peter an important commission: *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 16:18-19). This was no chance statement, but was Biblical authority given to one man who had received a revelation of who God was.

Neither was it a chance happening when Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, and the people asked him, *“What must we do?”* He used his revelation of who God was to tell them: *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you, In the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38).

But what about the commandment of the Lord in

Matthew 28:19? *“Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*

- 📖 So, what was His father’s name? John 5:43 says: *“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”*
- 📖 What was the name He came in? Matthew 1:21 says: *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* Luke 1:76-79 speaks about this child who would be born, and explains what He will do for us: *“...to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins. . .”* **What a wonderful name!**

2. What Was the Example of the Apostles?

Peter and the rest of the apostles carried out this command in the New Testament. Their followers were baptized by immersion, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Examples include:

- 📖 On the Day of Pentecost – those that received the word Peter preached were baptized (Acts 2:41) – Jews.
- 📖 The Samaritans believed the preaching of Philip and were baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:12, 16) – Samaritans.
- 📖 Cornelius, the first Gentile, was baptized when he heard the truth (Acts 10:47-48) – Gentiles.
- 📖 Even John the Baptist’s disciples at Ephesus – when they heard what God had done for His disciples, they obeyed the word also (Acts 19:1-7).
- 📖 Peter taught in Acts 4:12 – there is no other name that can save us.
- 📖 Paul taught it when he wrote to the church at Colosse – do *all things* in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).

Conclusion

There is really no way around it. If we want to obey the Bible, baptism by immersion, in the name of Jesus is the only way. It was the way Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, and to the Samaritans and Gentiles. Jesus gave Peter the keys to His kingdom, and Peter used them until his death. In his first epistle to the church in general (written to believers scattered throughout the world through persecution), Peter reminded them of the importance of baptism:

“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” (1 Peter 3:21).

“We may never be martyrs but we can die to self, to sin, to the world, to our plans and ambitions. That is the significance of baptism; we died with Christ and rose to a new life.”
(Vance Havner)

Water baptism saves us in the sense that it is an obedient expression of our repentance and faith in Christ and of our commitment to come out of the world. It is our confession and pledge that we belong to Christ and have died and risen with Him. *“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead”* (Colossians 2:12).

Water baptism is not a magical act; it is without spiritual value unless it is accompanied by conscious faith and repentance. Baptism is important only because God has ordained it to be so. When we submit to water baptism according to God’s plan, God honors our obedient faith and remits our sins.

Study Questions

1. _____ is the only mode of baptism the Bible records.
2. “Baptism” comes from what Greek word? _____
What does this Greek word mean? _____

3. Explain what is meant by the term “Christian water baptism.” _____

4. What two groups of people does God not approve of?
1) _____
2) _____
5. How did the plan of worship in the Tabernacle in the wilderness relate to water baptism in the New Testament? (Give Scripture to support.) _____

6. According to Paul in Romans 6:4-5, baptism is a type of what? _____

7. List and briefly explain (with Scripture reference) at least three time Jesus spoke about baptism.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

8. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded his followers to “baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Write out (with reference) at least two (2) scriptures that tell us the name of His father that Jesus came in.

1) _____

2) _____

9. Peter and the rest of the apostles carried out the commandment of Matthew 28:19 in the baptisms performed in the New Testament. List four (4) groups of other believers who had not heard this truth before. Provide Scripture reference where possible.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

10. Explain how water baptism saves us. Support your answer with Scripture.

What Hinders You?

“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

Acts 8 tells the amazing story of a deacon and his desert road rendezvous with an African big man; a royal officer to the queen. He was reading God’s Word in his chariot, and could not understand what it meant. God arranged a preacher. Philip jumped aboard, and preached Jesus to Him. The Ethiopian eunuch gladly received the Gospel, understood it, and embraced it. He asked, “Look. Here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” He was not willing for anything to stop him from responding to the Word of God. However, many people allow hindrances and hang-ups to prevent them from being baptized.

In this lesson we will take the question the officer asked and apply it to others, “What hinders you from being baptized?”

Unbelief

Belief is a requirement for baptism. “And Philip 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 they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:37-38).

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

“[Therefore beware] brethren, take care, lest there be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart [which refuses to cleave to, trust in, and rely on Him], leading you to turn away and desert or stand aloof from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12, *AMP*).

The people who came out of Egypt, the land of bondage, were not permitted to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief.

“So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust in and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out]. [Numbers 14:1-35.]” (Hebrews 3:19, *AMP*).

“...They could not enter in, because of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:19).

Unbelievers will not enter heaven. Sinners will not be there.

Rejection

Some reject the Gospel and therefore do not get baptized. If you reject Christ, He will one day reject you!

“But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him” (Luke 7:30).

John’s baptism was unto repentance (Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:4) and pointed to the baptism introduced in Acts 2:38.

Ignorance

The Ethiopian was willing to admit his lack of knowledge and to be enlightened. God does not excuse our lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

“Such [former] ages of ignorance God, it is true, ignored and allowed to pass unnoticed; but now He charges all people everywhere to repent (to change their minds for the better and heartily to amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins)” (Acts 17:30, *AMP*).

“But how are people to call upon Him Whom they have not believed [in Whom they have no faith, on Whom they have no reliance]? And how are they to believe in Him [adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him] of Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14, *AMP*).

In Acts 19:1-5 the Apostle Paul taught the Ephesians concerning the correct mode of baptism. They cheerfully accepted.

Lack of Teaching

Perhaps, like the Ethiopian, some are asking, “How can I understand this unless someone teaches me?” Teaching is important in the Great Commission and concerning baptism (Matthew 28:20).

“Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet.” “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30-31, *NIV*).

Many do not realize the importance of water baptism. False teaching, which minimizes baptism, is largely responsible for this lack of water baptism.

“Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day” (Psalms 25:4-5).

Tradition

One African student wrote, "Our old customs and other beliefs have encouraged people not to accept baptism. People think baptism is just a ceremonial ritual. They think believing in tradition is enough. Tradition cannot save mankind."

Another student wrote, "many hold to what they were taught as infants and are not ready to change their minds. This prevents thousands from baptism. People are bold enough to say, 'I understand your teaching but I want to hold on to what I was taught in my church.' It is time for us to take a stand and break customs." Customs and traditions are usually wrong only when they violate or oppose God's Word.

"Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?" (Matthew 15:3, *NLT*).

"Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on. And many things of this kind you are doing" (Mark 7:13, *AMP*).

Many will perish because they held to manmade traditions they were taught, refusing to adjust to God's Word.

Fear

There are some who neglect baptism because they are afraid of the water. God has not caused this type of fear and will help a person overcome it.

Procrastination

Some tend to put things off until tomorrow. Procrastination is the thief of time. Tomorrow may be too late. The Ethiopian took the first opportunity for baptism. He said, "See, here is water" as if he was looking for the first sign of water so he could obey God's Word. Obviously, Philip had instructed him that baptism was the proper response to the Gospel.

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25).

Baptism is essential and urgent (Acts 2: 36-41, 8: 35.). This is why when people heard the gospel and believed it, they were immediately baptized (Acts 16: 33).

Peer Pressure

It's hard to break away from tradition, culture, and friends who do not want to obey God's Word. Peer pressure causes a person to wonder, "What will my friends and family say?" Do not worry about that. Worry more about what God's Word says.

Lack of Repentance

Belief and repentance precede baptism (Acts 2:36-38; Romans 10:9-10). Without it a person is not prepared for baptism.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

Repentance comes from the Greek word *metanoia* which means to "change mind." Change your mind and ways today. Start walking the opposite direction—toward baptism.

Pride

"God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it)" (James 4:6, AMP).

Some hate to admit that they were wrong and that they need to be baptized in Jesus name. They want to cling to other modes and formulas of baptism because of their pride.

Quick obedience to God's commands is important. Samuel said, "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

Do not allow any of the above hindrances keep you from obeying God's Word.

I like the words of this song:

"When we walk with the Lord,
In the light of His word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey!
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey!"

Trust and obey! Be baptized in Jesus name today!

Study Questions

1. Prove that belief is a requirement for baptism. _____

2. List five things that could hinder a person from baptism in Jesus name. _____

3. How does tradition keep a person from obeying the command to be baptized in Jesus name? _____

4. What does peer pressure cause a person to wonder? _____

5. What is repentance? _____

Additional Notes

What Are You Waiting For?

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

The Word of God is clear and precise concerning baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38).

“They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 8:16).

“They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5)

“For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17, *NKJV*).

The content for this lesson is provided by Pastor Raymond Woodward; a tremendous friend and Bible teacher.

Water baptism is an outward physical act. Our obedience to the God’s command accomplishes an inner spiritual work.

That is why in the Bible there is no such thing as a Christian who hasn’t been baptized! All believers in the Book of Acts were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some people ask, “Do I have to be baptized?” A good answer is, “Praise the Lord, you get to be baptized!”

Look at this list of some of the issues that are dealt with when an individual is baptized in Jesus’ name!

My sins are washed away or remitted, accomplishing God’s full work of forgiveness.

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

My sense of right and wrong is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.

"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" (1 Peter 3:21).

My body is buried in a "grave of water," portraying the death of my old life.

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

I am born again "of the water," depicting the birth of my new life.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

I am brought into God's covenant of New Testament salvation, portraying the "cutting off" of my fleshly desires.

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism ..." (Colossians 2:11-12).

I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

I apply the burial of Christ to my life, making it effective in me.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

I demonstrate publicly that I am beginning a new life, committing myself to Christ and to my church family.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41-42).

The more a believer studies the Bible, the more they find out about the miraculous events that happened back at the time of their salvation experience. The small matter of saying "yes" to the terms of God's covenant leads to a lifetime of spiritual relationship and discovery, much like the small matter of saying "I do" to the terms of one's wedding vows leads to a lifetime of

discovering all the implications of those two words uttered in an instant! Only Heaven will reveal the full wonder of God's work in us at the moment we are baptized!

"So, now
What are you waiting for?
Get up
Be baptized
Wash your sins away
Calling on the name" (Acts 22:16, *NIV*).

Study Questions

1. Provide three scriptural references for baptism in Jesus name. _____

2. Write out one of the Scriptures referenced in number one above. _____

3. Provide five issues that are dealt with when one is baptized in Jesus name.
 - 1) _____

 - 2) _____

 - 3) _____

 - 4) _____

 - 5) _____

4. Write out the words found in Acts 22:16. _____

Truth Or Tradition

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”
(Acts 2:38).

In history there was a great man named Aristotle. He taught that heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones. Because he was one of the greatest thinkers of his time, people believed him. After two thousand years of people believing this, another man named Galileo called for learned men to come to the base of a high tower. He then climbed to the top and pushed off a five kilo and a one kilo weight at the same time. Much to the surprise of everyone who had gathered, both objects fell at the same time. The power of belief in man's wisdom was so strong that the learned people refused to believe what they had seen. They denied Galileo's experiment and insisted Aristotle was correct. The tradition of what they had been taught would not allow for them to accept the truth; even when they had seen it; and admit that they were incorrect. They persisted to believe an inaccurate teaching. This story was related in a book called, *Strong Men in Tough Times*, by Ed Cole. He stated, “A person's beliefs hold the greatest potential for good or harm in life.”

This same man related a story that has been repeated in several other books on various subjects. It is an old story about a ship's captain who one night saw what looked like a light of another ship heading toward him. He had the signalman blink to the other ship, “Change your course ten degrees south.”

The reply, “Change your course ten degrees north.”

Again a response, “I am a captain and I say change your course south.”

To that the reply came, “I am a seaman first class. Change your course north.”

The captain was angry and signaled back, “I say change your course south. I'm on a battleship.”

The reply came back, “Change your course north. I'm in a lighthouse.”

What we believe about our salvation matters when we consider our future destiny. We must adjust to the truth of God's Word. If someone says something is wrong, and then a thousand people say it is correct, it is still wrong.

We cannot be like the boy who reacted stubbornly to his mother.

One day the mother told the son to sit down and he refused. She again insisted he sit down and he insisted on refusing. She demanded he sit down and forced him. The boy retorted, “Mother even though you see me sitting down, in my spirit I am still standing up!”

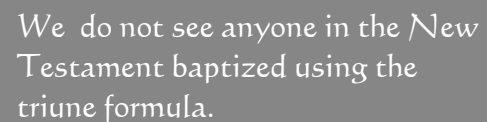
This brings us to the point of this lesson.

What are the correct words to be used for Water Baptism?

As we look at churches that practice baptism by immersion we realize there are two varying formulas used. Many use the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19. Others use the words recorded in Acts 2:38 as contained in the first sermon preached in the New Testament Church. Because of these two different formulas there is confusion in the minds of many as to which should be used.

Matthew 28:19 is considered to be the Great Commission. Luke also records the Great Commission in Luke 24:45-47. "Remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations."

In history the triune formula was not used by the early church. It started in 325 A. D. at the Council of Nicea.



We do not see anyone in the New Testament baptized using the triune formula.

No record of the Trinitarian formula can be found in the Book of Acts, neither in any of the Epistles. No where in the New Testament was there an example of someone being baptized using this formula.

It is important that we are baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ because, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Peter was given the keys to the kingdom by Jesus in Matthew 16:19 and used these keys to open the door to salvation in Acts 2:38.

Jesus Himself in Matthew 28:19 commanded we baptize in a name. We are aware that "Jesus" is the only saving name. The Apostles did not disobey or fail because we know all Scripture is inspired by God. Jesus is the highest name known to mankind (Philippians 2:9-11).

Everything we do in word or deed should be done in the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17). Jesus died for us and we are His bride; therefore we must take on the family name (Ephesians 3:14-15).

We are to be buried with Him in baptism (Colossians 2:8-12). We are washed in the name of the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11).

We do not refute the words of Matthew 28:19 but we are trying to show how the command was interpreted and obeyed by the Apostles.

We are not trying to minimize the sincere religious experience of those who have been baptized in the titles. Rather we want you to be like the sincere believers of Ephesus, who upon hearing the truth were rebaptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:3-5).

We cannot follow the traditions of men; making the Word of God of none effect (Mark 7:13). It is possible, like Jesus said to hold to “the tradition of the elders” (Mark 7:3). All doctrine must be clearly based on Scripture for it is the only measure of truth.

Pilate asked, “What is truth?” Jesus kept silent. However for those who truly seek truth, He said “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

For those who obey the truth, the Bible gives us a great promise. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

Study Questions

1. What do we learn from the illustration concerning Aristotle and Galileo? _____

2. What is the best measurement of truth? Explain. _____

3. What are the correct words to be used for water baptism? _____

[illegible]

Water Baptism the Bible Way

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women”
(Acts 8:12).

WATER BAPTISM is the second step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. Repentance must always precede baptism, for they work together to accomplish the forgiveness of sins. In the same way, repentance without baptism is incomplete. God's Word teaches that water baptism is ESSENTIAL for salvation, and gives us very specific requirements as to the MODE (what is DONE) and the FORMULA (what is SAID) of baptism. For the purposes of our study, we are referring to baptism as a “second step,” but it should be remembered that there is only one NEW BIRTH. The Bible commands baptism in the same strong terms that it commands repentance – they are inseparable.

LET'S ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ...

- **WHO** should be baptized?
- **WHY** should I be baptized?
- **WHEN** should I be baptized?
- **WHAT** happens at baptism?
- **HOW** should I be baptized?

1. Who should be baptized?

- **Every person who has believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and repented of their sins.**

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized ...” (Acts 2:38, 41)

“But when they believed what Philip was saying about God's kingdom and about the name of Jesus Christ, they were all baptized.” (Acts 8:12)

- **Those who are old enough to understand the meaning of repentance.**

At The United Pentecostal Church, we wait until our children are old enough to understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice the baptism of infants, but this custom did not begin until about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism that is taught in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe and repent. Instead of baptizing infants, we dedicate

them to God in a ceremony intended to be a covenant between the parents and God. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until he is old enough to make his own personal decision to obey the Word of God.

- **Those who have been baptized previously in a different way than the baptism specified by the Apostles for the New Testament church.**

“Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?’ [Paul] asked. And they replied, ‘What John the Baptist taught.’ Then Paul pointed out to them that John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin to God and that those receiving his baptism must then go on to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:3-5, TLB)

“On hearing this they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:5, AMP)

2. Why should I be baptized?

- **To follow the example set by Jesus Christ.**

“At that time Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan, and came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. ‘I ought to be baptized by you,’ John said, ‘yet you come to me!’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.’ So John agreed.” (Matthew 3:13-15)

- **Because the Lord commanded it.**

“And [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16)

- **Because the Apostles preached it and the New Testament church practiced it.**

“And [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord ...” (Acts 10:48)

“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8)

3. When should I be baptized?

- **As soon as you have believed and repented.**

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)

“That same hour the jailer ... and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.” (Acts 16:33)

“And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

- **Before you “get your life straightened out.”**

We don’t get good to get God, we get God to get good! If you wait around until you perfect yourself, get everything “fixed up” in your life, or feel worthy enough to be baptized, you will never do it. If you have truly repented, and are ready to leave your sin behind (with God’s help), you are ready to be baptized – NOW! There is no reason to delay your obedience.

- **Promptly, without delaying for other people.**

While it is a wonderful thing for family members to witness your baptism, or be baptized together at the same time, it is not wise to delay your obedience to the Word of God on their account. Baptism is a Bible command, not a family tradition.

4. What happens at baptism?

- **My sins are washed away or remitted, accomplishing God’s full work of forgiveness.**

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:47)

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

- **My conscience is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.**

“And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21, AMP)

- **My body is buried in a “grave of water,” portraying the death of my old life.**

“Have you forgotten that all of us who were baptized into Jesus Christ were, by that very action, sharing in his death?” (Romans 6:3)

“And when you were baptized, it was the same as being buried with Christ. Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death.” (Col. 2:12)

- **I am born again “of the water,” portraying the birth of my new life.**

“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God ... The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.’” (John 3:3, 5)

- **I am brought into God’s covenant of salvation, portraying the “cutting off” of my fleshly desires.**

“When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, NLT)

“In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). [Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, AMP)

- **I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.**

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, KJV)

“All of you who were baptized ‘into’ Christ have put on the family likeness of Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, PHI)

“Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone.” (Acts 4:12, CEV)

“Jesus is the only One who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through him.” (Acts 4:12, NCV)

- **I apply the burial of Christ to my life, making it effective in me.**

“We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4, AMP)

“In other words, when we were baptized we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.” (Romans 6:4, JER)

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

- I demonstrate publicly that I am beginning a new life, committing myself to Christ and His church.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church – about three thousand in all. They joined in with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching ...” (Acts 2:41-42, NLT)

“That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles ...” (Acts 2:41-42, TM)

5. How should I be baptized?

- In a PUBLIC SERVICE if at all possible ...

- Because it is a testimony to others.

Your baptism is a public declaration that you have committed your life to Christ and His church. If you choose in advance when you are going to be baptized, we encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend the service. You will also be given a certificate to commemorate your baptism.

- Because it is an encouragement to you.

One of the pastors will lead the congregation (your new family!) in praying for you, then he will lower you briefly under the water and speak the name of Jesus over you. When you are raised from the water, you will sense God’s presence in a special way as everyone rejoices with you. Take advantage of this time to worship the Lord fervently – many people receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost as they rise from their “watery grave!”

- By being IMMERSED in water ...

- **Because Jesus was baptized by immersion.**

“After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water ...” (Matthew 3:16)

- **Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

“He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. After they had come out of the water ...” (Acts 8:38-39)

- **Because that’s precisely what the word baptism means.**

The Greek word “**baptizo**” literally means “to immerse or submerge under water.” It also has the significance of washing or cleansing oneself.

- **Because it is the best portrayal of a burial and resurrection.**

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” (Rom. 6:4)

- **In the NAME of the Lord Jesus Christ ...**

- **Because every baptism in the book of Acts was performed in Jesus’ name.**

THE DAY OF PENTECOST: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

THE SAMARITANS: “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)” (Acts 8:15-16)

THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS: “And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” (Acts 10:48)

THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN: “When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:5)

PAUL’S BAPTISM: “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, **calling on the name of the Lord.**” (Acts 22:16)

- **Because the epistles conclusively teach baptism in the name of Jesus.**

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3)

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 1:12)

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17)

- **Because Jesus is the only name that has the power to save us.**

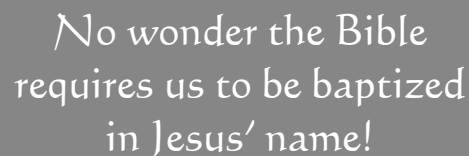
“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- **Because Jesus is Almighty God!**

The most important reason to be baptized in the name of Jesus is that He is God! The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Father (Isaiah 9:6), the Son (Matthew 1:21), and the Holy Ghost (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily (Colossians 2:9), and the name of Jesus represents all the power and authority of God (Matthew 28:18, Acts 4:7,10).



No wonder the Bible
requires us to be baptized
in Jesus' name!

BAPTIZED "IN THE NAME"

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)*

*"I am come **in my Father's name** ..." (John 5:43)*

The Name of
the Father is
...

*"And she shall bring forth
a son, and thou shalt **call**
his name Jesus ..." (Matthew 1:21)*

The Name of
the
Son is ...

JESUS

*"But the Comforter, which
is **the Holy Ghost**, whom
the Father will send in my
name ..." (John 14:26)*

The Name of
the Holy
Ghost is ...

*"For **in him** dwelleth **all the fulness of the Godhead** bodily. And ye are
complete in him, which is **the head of all principality and power** ...
Buried with him in baptism ..." (Colossians 2:9-10, 12)*

Study Questions

1. Write out one (1) verse (with reference) that supports each of the following statements:

1) The Name of the Holy Ghost is JESUS _____

2) The Name of the Father is JESUS _____

3) The Name of the Son is JESUS _____

2. List the five (5) groups of people whose baptisms are recorded in the book of Acts. Use Scripture to support the claim they were all baptized in the Name of Jesus.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

3. List (with Scripture reference) the three (3) types of people who should be baptized.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

4. Give three (3) reasons (with Scripture reference) why a person should be baptized.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

5. List and briefly explain three (3) statements about when a person should be baptized. Support with Scripture if possible.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

6. Given the following Scripture references, write a brief explanation about what happens at baptism according to each verse.

- 1) Acts 2:41-42 _____

- 2) Acts 22:16 _____

- 3) Colossians 2:11-12 _____

4) Romans 6:4 _____

5) Galatians 3:27 _____

6) 1 Peter 3:21 _____

7) Romans 6:3 _____

8) John 3:3,5 _____

7. List two (2) reasons it is good to be baptized in a public service.

1) _____

2) _____

8. List four (4) reasons why baptism should be done by immersion in water. Support with Scripture if possible.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

9. Write out four (4) verses (with reference) that support the following statement:

“Baptism should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because the epistles conclusively teach baptism in the name of Jesus.”

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

“... be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .”
(Acts 2:38)