

## THE BIBLE VIEW ON WATER BAPTISM

- I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS HANDOUT IS TO EXAMINE THE WORD OF GOD CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF WATER BAPTISM AS IT RELATES TO A CHRISTIAN IN THE PRESENT CHURCH AGE.
- A. There Are many Baptisms according to Hebrews 6:1-2, seven to Be exact, but Ephesians 4:4-6 Says there Is only one Baptism that Puts a Believer into Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit Baptism (1 Cor 12:13).
  - B. Water Baptism Has **a Purpose, a Candidate, a Time and Place, a Method, and a Reason.**
- II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?
- A. The Bible Says that Salvation Is by Grace through Faith alone (Eph 2:8-9), therefore, Water Baptism Is clearly a **Figure** or **Type** of Something that Has already Taken Place in the Heart of a Believer (1 Pet 3:21).
  - B. Water Baptism Is an Ordinance (Mat 28:18-19) representing the Identification of a Believer with the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Col 2:12).
  - C. A Believer being Baptized in Water Is “Crucified” (standing upright in water), He Is “Buried” (immersed into the water), and He Is “Resurrected into a new Life” (raised out of the water) (Rom 6:3-5).
  - D. Water Baptism Is a Picture of spiritual Baptism as Defined in Romans 6:3-5 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:13.
    - 1. It is the outward testimony of the believer’s inward faith.
    - 2. A sinner is saved the moment he places his faith in the lord Jesus Christ.
    - 3. Water baptism is a visible testimony to that invisible faith.
    - 4. This is the scriptural basis for water baptism.
  - E. Water Baptism Pictures and Claims four important Facts:
    - 1. The believer’s death, burial, and resurrection with Christ (Col 2:12).
    - 2. The death of the believer’s old life to sin and his resurrection to walk in a new life of righteousness (Rom 6:4, 8-13).
    - 3. The believer’s faith in the Trinity of the Godhead (Mat 28:19; 1 John 5:7-8; Rom 1:20).
    - 4. The believer’s “putting on” of Christ, the new man (Gal 3:26-27; Eph 4:24; Col 3:8-10).

- F. Water Baptism Is a Picture of what Transpired when a Believer Placed His Faith and Trust in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ to Save Him from His Sins (Rom 6:3-5).
- G. Water Baptism Does not Aton for Sin, only the Blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses a Believer from His Sin (Rom 5:10-11; 1 John 1:7; Col 1:14; Rev 1:5).

### III. WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR WATER BAPTISM?

- A. The Bible Says that Water Baptism Is only for Believers.
  - 1. In Acts 2:41 people received the word, and then they were baptized in water.
  - 2. In Acts 8:12, 36-38 people believed, and then they were baptized in water.
  - 3. In Acts 10:43-47 people believed, received the Holy Ghost, and then were baptized in water (lost people do not receive the Holy Spirit).
- B. When the Philippian Jailer Asked, “What must I do to be saved?” He Was Told to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:30-34). The Apostle Paul Did not Tell Him to Be Baptized in Water to Be Saved. His Water Baptism Came after He Believed, which Sets the scriptural Standard.
- C. Water Baptism Is not Salvation, but Obedience to a Command by Christ concerning Discipleship (Mat 28:19).

### IV. WHAT IS THE TIME AND PLACE OF WATER BAPTISM?

- A. The Bible Says that **the Time of Water Baptism** should Be shortly after One’s spiritual Baptism (the new birth).
  - 1. At the moment one is saved, he is placed into the Body of Christ by spiritual baptism (Gal 3:26-27) and should follow the miracle of spiritual baptism with physical immersion into water (Acts 8:38; 10:47; 16:33).
  - 2. Saul of Tarsus (the Apostle Paul – Acts 13:9) was baptized in water shortly after believing in Jesus Christ (Acts 9:18).
  - 3. The Roman Centurion Cornelius was baptized in water shortly after believing in Jesus Christ (Acts 10:43-48).
  - 4. The Philippian Jailer was baptized in water shortly after believing in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:33).
- B. The Bible Says that **the Place of Water Baptism** should Be in the Presence of other Believers, a local New Testament Church.
  - 1. The Lord Jesus Christ gave the local churches the “ordinance” of water baptism (Mat 28:18-20).
  - 2. An *ordinance* is a ceremony appointed by Jesus Christ to be administered in the local Church as a visible type of His sacrifice on Calvary.

V. WHAT IS THE METHOD FOR BELIEVERS TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER?

- A. The Bible Says that total Immersion Is the only Method of Water Baptism.
  - 1. In John 3:23 one finds that John the Baptist needed “much water” for baptism.
  - 2. In Matthew 3:13-16 and Mark 1:9-10 one finds that Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized.
  - 3. In Acts 8:36-39 one finds that both Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch went down into the water.
  - 4. In Romans 6:3-6 one finds that water baptism must fulfill three types: death, burial, and resurrection. It is also referred to as being “planted,” and being raised.
- B. The only Method of Water Baptism that Fulfills all of those Requirements Is total Immersion of the Believer in Water. Furthermore, scriptural Expressions such as “much water” (John 3:23), “into the water,” and “out of the water” (Mat 3:16; Mark 1:10) Are conclusive Evidences that Water Baptism Is by full Immersion.

VI. WHAT IS THE REASON FOR BELIEVERS TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER?

- A. The Bible Says that the Reason for Water Baptism Is to Give a Christian the Opportunity to publicly Identify Himself with the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Col 2:12).
- B. The Bible Says that spiritual Baptism actually Places a Believer into Jesus Christ, His Death, His Burial, and His Resurrection (Rom 6:3-5). Water Baptism Is an outward physical Expression (type or figure) of that inward spiritual Experience, the “Answer of a good Conscience” and “not the Putting away of the Filth (sins) of the Flesh” (1 Pet 3:18-21).
- C. Being Baptized in Water Pleases God.
  - 1. When Jesus Christ was baptized, God the Father said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mat 3:17).
  - 2. When one follows Jesus Christ in water baptism, he is sure to please his heavenly Father (Mat 16:24; 1 Cor 11:1).
  - 3. When one is publicly baptized in water, he is giving a testimony to the world (Mat 10:32) of his faith in Christ by identifying with Him in a figure of His death, burial, and resurrection (1 Pet 3:21).

VII. CONCLUSION.

- A. The Bible Says that Water Baptism Is not “a sacrament” that Imparts saving Grace, but an Ordinance.

- B. The Bible Says that One Is not Saved by Water Baptism, but by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Shed Blood (1 Cor 1:17-18; Eph 2:8; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Rev 1:5).
- C. The Bible Says that Water Baptism Is the outward physical Symbol (type or figure) of what Has Transpired spiritually in the Heart of One who Has Trusted Jesus Christ for His Salvation (1 Pet 3:21).
- D. Have You Taken the first Step of obedience in Your Walk with the Lord?
- E. Have You Been Obedient to the Word of God Concerning the Matter of Believer's Baptism?