

A MOST WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

ROMANS 6:3-7

JUNE 8, 2014 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Water baptism is one of the most wonderful and magnificently beautiful experiences in the life of the believer. **Some people think *Baptism is unessential***-that it really is of no particular matter or meaning. I want to remove that philosophy from your thinking right now. **It is not a Baptist doctrine.** It is a Bible doctrine.

Jesus **INITIATED** baptism at the beginning of His public ministry **Definition: to bring into practice by first doing**

Matt. 3:13-15 (HCSB) "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized of him. But John tried to stop Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me.' Jesus answered him, 'Allow it now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.'"

Jesus **INSTITUTED** believer's baptism
Definition: to set up; to establish, to cause to stand

Mat. 28:18-19 (HCSB) "Then Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'" Jesus commanded it. We must never take lightly what Jesus taught so strongly. We need to see the importance of baptism.

I. THE PRESCRIBED METHOD OF BAPTISM

Rm. 6:3-4a (NKJV) "Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death..." Some people think that how you baptize is not important. Someone once said, "The Bible teaches all kinds of baptism-pouring, sprinkling and immersion." No it doesn't. **Look at Jesus' baptism.** He shows us that it is by immersion. **Mk. 1:9-10a (NKJV) "It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and**

was baptized by John in the Jordan [river]. And immediately coming up from the water." Now, if He came up out of the water, where was He? ***Down in the water!*** It is clear-unmistakable that Jesus was baptized by immersion. **You would have to intentionally distort Scripture to make it say anything else.**

The Bible says Jesus went **"from Nazareth of Galilee to where John was baptizing in the Jordan."** **WHY** did Jesus go there? **Why** was John baptizing there? **Jn. 3:23 (KJV) "And John was also baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there."** If we baptize by sprinkling, we could baptize many of you with this glass of water. **The reason John was there is simple:** there was ***much water there*** and it takes a lot of water to baptize.

Another Bible example is **Philip** who was led by the Spirit out into the desert. He met an Ethiopian who was returning from Jerusalem where he had been to worship. **The Ethiopian wanted to be baptized. Acts 8:36 "Now as they went down road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'"**-a good question for many of you. This man was the treasurer for Queen Candace. He traveled by chariot. You know he had water for bathing. He had drinking water. **It certainly wasn't that they just needed a little cup of water for a sprinkling service.**

The conversation continues in **Acts 8:37-38 "Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God .' So he commanded the chariot to stand still."** Listen carefully to these words: **"And they both went down into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch and he immersed him."** V.39 then says, **"Now when they came up out of the water [now if they came up out of the water, where were they? In the water.] the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."** It is absolutely clear that in the Bible baptism was by immersion.

ILLUSTRATION ONE [statements from early church leaders concerning baptism —Whitfield, Luther...]

Baptism is an untranslated and untranslatable word. It has simply been

Transliterated. It was just moved from Greek to English as it was.

I challenge anyone to find a place in the Bible where **baptism is done by any method** other than immersion.. **It means to put under the water or immerse.** The prescribed method- immersion.

II. THE POWERFUL MEANING OF BAPTISM

Rm. 6:4-5 (HCSB)"Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life. For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection ." Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our identification with Him by faith and in repentance toward God.

"We were buried with Him by baptism," The baptistery is a liquid tomb, so baptism is a funeral service. **When I was baptized,** it was a funeral for the old Jay. The old Jay died, and baptism pictured the burial of the old Jay. **The only mourner** there was the devil. He hates to see anybody die to sin and self and become alive in the Savior.

Truly saved people want to be baptized once they understand this. **Acts 2 :41 "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."** They received the word then they were baptized. **Acts 10:46- 47 "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 'Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?'"** You hear the word, receive the Holy Spirit, get baptized.

We are **"Raised to walk in a new way of life."** We are immersed. When you are baptized, you go down under the water, you come back up out of the water to walk in newness of life. **We say good-bye to the old world and way of life and say hello to the new man or woman that we have become.**

Grasp this-get it-understand it: baptism pictures deliverance from sin. Baptism not only pictures my death with Him but my resurrection with Him. One of these days I'm going to have a body like the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus Christ. My ultimate glorification with Him is seen in the words **of v.5 "We will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection."**

The devil would remove the gospel from our church if he could. **Many churches have removed the picture of the gospel by removing immersion as the only method of baptism.** The meaning cannot be seen when the method is changed.

We are buried with Him by baptism into death. What does baptism symbolize? The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We've seen the method and the meaning now...

III. THE PURPOSEFUL MOTIVE FOR BAPTISM

Rm. 6:6-7 (HCS) "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims."

A. CHRIST IS THE MASTER THAT WE CONFESS

Rm. 6:6 "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him..."

In baptism you say, "I believe in Jesus Christ, I identify myself with His death burial and resurrection. I am not ashamed of Jesus Christ." Baptism says, now I belong to Jesus. **Mk. 16:15-16 (NKJV) "...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."**

B. CHRIST IS THE MESSAGE THAT WE CONVEY

Rm. 6:7b "...a person who has died is freed from sin's claims." When a person gets baptized often loved ones will fall under

conviction. **It's silent but powerful sermon.** It's saying, "Look, by my baptism, I am picturing the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The old person I used to be is dead. I am giving myself to the One who has died for me; I am no longer my own. You are preaching **1Cor. 15:1,2, 3-4 (NKJV) "...I declare unto you the gospel... by which you are saved ... 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."**

C. CHRIST'S COMMISSION IS THE MANDATE THAT THE CHURCH IS TO COMPLETE

Baptism is not a request from Jesus. It is a command by Jesus. Last words are important. His last words on earth to the Christians and to the church are in **Mat. 28 :18-20 (NKJV) "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you: and I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Jesus says in Jn. 14:15 "If you love Me keep My commandments."**

Call upon Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and you will be saved. **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."**

The METHOD-immersion-remember if you **change** the method you **destroy** the meaning.

The MEANING-a **picture of our identification** with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The MOTIVE-to **confess** Christ, to **obey** Him, and to **declare** His gospel.