

## **What is the meaning of baptism?**

Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4*

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

## **What do we mean by "biblical baptism?"**

Because it represents the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, we believe biblical baptism must be by immersion. As we see in the New Testament, every baptism was by immersion, including the baptism of Jesus. In the Greek New Testament (the original language of the New Testament) the word for baptize is baptizo, which means to submerge or dip under water. As you study the Bible it becomes clear that immersion is the only valid mode of baptism.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16*

## **Who should be baptized?**

Only those who have trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior should be baptized.

*Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8*

Some churches practice christening, a ceremony where a child is sprinkled and parents promise to raise the child under the umbrella of the Christian faith. When he is older, the child is expected to make his or her own profession of faith. Though the motives behind christening are noble, it is not biblically based and has nothing to do with biblical baptism. There is no record of any infant baptism in the New Testament.

The New Testament pattern is clear, consistent and constant. In the New Testament, only those who believed the Gospel and received Christ were baptized, and always by immersion.

## **Does baptism save me?**

Baptism is not necessary for salvation. The Bible teaches that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

## **Why should I be baptized?**

Jesus commanded those who have received Him as their Savior and Lord to be baptized. Baptism is your first act of obedience to Him as Lord (controller) of your life.

*[Jesus said,] "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20*

Jesus illustrated the importance of baptism by beginning His ministry on earth with His own baptism, thereby setting an example for us to follow.

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. Matthew 3:13*

Baptism is the means by which you publicly profess your faith in Christ. Just as a wedding ring symbolizes to the world that a person is married, baptism declares to everyone that you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord.

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:38, 41*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

## **When should I be baptized?**

You should be baptized as soon as possible after you have trusted Christ and received Him as Lord of your life.

*Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41*

*He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:30-33*