

IV. SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

After a person has invited the Lord Jesus into their life, which is referred to in the scripture as Salvation or the New Birth (John 3;), the next step in spiritual growth is to obey the Lord in Baptism. The following outline is to help you understand what the Bible states about this subject. God's word, the Bible, must always be our guide in understanding God's plan for us. Men may have conflicting ideas about Baptism but we must obey the word of God. Read carefully the following scriptures in your New Testament to see what method of Baptism is God's method and who is qualified to be baptized. Also note that the church is the only one given the authority to baptize. That is the reason when a man is called by God to preach he should be ordained by a local church that follows the word of God and not some man. Thus being ordained he is given the authority by the church to baptize and fulfill the office of a pastor, evangelist, or missionary.

I. WHAT IS THE SCRIPTURAL METHOD OF BAPTISM?

A. Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:9-11; John 3:23

1. Why in a river?
2. To come up out of, you must be down in ...

B. Baptize comes from the Greek word Baptizo. Greek Lexicons (dictionary) state

1. Liddell & Scott: Baptizo, to dip
2. Bagster: Baptizo, to bathe, immerse
3. Sapulo: Baptizo, to dip, to immerse.

NOTE: There is no Greek Lexicon that does not give "to dip" or "immerse" as the primary meaning of "baptizo".

If Jesus had meant to sprinkle He would have used the word "rantizo" which primarily means "to sprinkle" or "Echeo" if He meant "to pour"

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

1. Jesus walked 60 miles to be baptized =Mark 1: 9-11
2. Matthew 28: 19-20 Jesus commissioned the church to baptize. This was started by Christ with the 11 Apostles. Ephesians 2:19-22.
3. Baptism is an act of Obedience.

III. A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

1. Acts 8:26-38
2. Acts 2:41

IV. PROPER AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE

1. Matthew 21 :25 Implies that man's baptism is not of God
2. Matthew 21:23 Jesus was asked about His authority.
3. Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus declares His authority. illustrated by a boy playing policeman
4. Jesus gave the church the authority to baptize.
5. Illustrated by boys in swimming and play baptism

V. WHAT DOES BAPTISM PICTURE?

1. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Romans 6:3-5, 10-11 It is an act of identifying ourselves with Christ.
2. Colossians 2:12

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