

WATER BAPTISM SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

INTRODUCTION: Before ascending on high and taking His place at the right hand of God, Jesus instituted two ordinances that were to be observed throughout the church age – Holy Communion, and Water Baptism. Communion shows forth Christ's death until He comes. Baptism identifies believers with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and serves as an outward declaration of an inward work of grace.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why baptize? **MT. 28:19-20**
 - A. Jesus commanded it. The great commission involves going, making disciples, baptizing and teaching obedience.
2. Why be baptized?
 - A. Jesus was baptized. **MK. 1:9-11 (AMPC)**
 - B. Following Jesus involves obedience. **MT. 3:13-15 (AMPC)**
3. Is baptism necessary for salvation?
 - A. **ACTS 16:29-31** – No! Believing in Christ saves.
 - B. **1 COR. 1:14-17** – Paul didn't think so!
 - C. **1 COR. 15:1-6** – Baptism wasn't mentioned.
 - My testimony of water baptism.
4. When should one be baptized?
 - A. **ACTS 8:35-40** – When you believe the gospel with all you heart.
5. Is infant baptism scriptural?
 - A. **ACTS 8:12** – One must believe before being baptized.
 - B. **ACTS 2:37-41** – An infant can't repent or believe.
 - C. Faith is a prerequisite and there are no examples of an infant being baptized in the New Testament.
6. What is the biblical mode of baptism?
 - A. **COL. 2:9-12** – Baptism is a burial. "Baptizo" means to immerse, to plunge.
JOHN 3:22-23 (AMPC)
7. What does baptism mean?
 - A. **ROM. 6:4 (AMPC)**
 - Identification with Christ.
 - Complete surrender. We've died to sin, self and all that displeases God in order to live for Christ.
 - The believers badge. It's like being married and not wearing your ring. You're still married. If someone is not married but wears a wedding ring does that make him married? No! One can be baptized but not be a Christian. One can be a Christian but not be baptized. Getting baptized is like wearing the ring and letting everyone know you've made a solemn commitment to Jesus Christ.
8. Should people be re-baptized who were baptized as infants?
 - A. **ACTS 19:1-5** – These were re-baptized who were baptized by John.
 - B. Since infants can't repent, believe, identify or surrender when they are able to, they should be baptized again.
 - C. Every individual must decide to believe for himself.

CONCLUSION: If Jesus was obedient to be baptized being the Son of God, how much more should we follow His example of obedience and get baptized after being born again? If God opened the heavens for Jesus, He'll do the same for anyone who follows His example.