

**THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER BAPTISM**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

**MT. 28:18:20**

Water Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the church. An ordinance is an authoritative decree. If it's a decree or command, why haven't more been baptized since accepting Christ?

- 1.) Religious Tradition. Some are more committed to church tradition than the Word of God.
  - A.) Infant Baptism. The belief is if an infant is baptized, he is cleansed from original sin. If not, and the baby dies, he will spend his eternity in limbo, apart from God forever. This belief is not supported in scripture. Some believe if they were baptized as an infant, they don't believe they need baptized again.
  - B.) **ACTS 19:2-5** It doesn't matter if we were baptized as an infant, a thousand times, or born in an ocean; Baptism is to follow salvation.
- 2.) Some don't understand the importance of Baptism.
  - A.) **MT. 3:13-15 ESV** It was important to Jesus to be water baptized.
  - B.) **LUKE 12:50 ESV** Baptism is connected to all that Jesus did. His baptism illustrates His death and resurrection. It will take His death and resurrection to fulfill all righteousness and His baptism was a symbolic illustration of both.
  - C.) **ROM 6:3-6** In baptism we identify with Christ. We are no longer identified with Adam. We are united with Christ, and identify with Him. Our baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual reality.
  - D.) **EPH. 2:4-6, COL. 2:12 NLT** When He died, we died. When He rose, we rose. When baptized, we show what happened to Jesus, happened to us.

**Questions**

- 1.) Does one have to be baptized to be saved?
  - A.) **MK. 16:15-16 ESV** Because baptism was immediate in Bible days, it became synonymous with salvation. When one believed, they were baptized immediately.
  - B.) Water Baptism doesn't save us, believing does. Baptism is an act of obedience after one gets saved. **LUKE 6:46** Being water baptized demonstrates our willingness to obey Christ.
- 2.) When should one be baptized?
  - A.) **ACTS 2:37-41, 8:12, 8:36-38, 22:16 NIV, 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 16:30-33 NLT, 18:8 NLT, 19:2-5.**
  - B.) Immediately after salvation. Not after we attend 12 classes, having thoroughly studying the subject, or waiting until a more convenient time, but now!
  - C.) Delayed, obedience usually results in disobedience.

**Conclusion:**

The Bible clearly teaches water baptism after salvation. Being baptized demonstrates our willingness to obey Christ. According to **MT. 3:16-17 ESV**, Baptism pleases God and opens the heavens to all who obey.