

Studies of the King & His Kingdom

Mastering the Basics

Lesson 11

The Doctrine of Christ: Identity with Christ through Water Baptism

Upon examination of the word "baptize" we find it is not actually an English word, but a Greek word written in letters of the English alphabet. If we write out the Greek in English letters, this gives us "baptizo." Then with a change of the "o" to an "e," we have the word "baptize."

In Strong's Exhaustive Concordance we see the primary meaning of the word "baptizo," "to make fully wet." Strong's gives the meaning of the verb "bapto" as "to cover wholly with fluid, hence to dip."

On the day of Pentecost 3000 souls responded to the gospel and were baptized (Acts 2:41). If the twelve apostles baptized and it took 2 minutes a person to perform the act, that would mean that each apostle baptized eight and one-half hours that day. It was commonly known and understood by believers and unbelievers that all those that put saving faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, Messiah and Saviour would immediately be baptized.

In modern day evangelism I think we have substituted repentance, faith, water baptism and discipleship for reciting a little prayer. The first command for all mankind is repentance toward God, faith in the Lord (Master) Jesus (Saviour) Christ (the anointed King) and water baptism (Acts 17:30; 20:21; 2:38). The apostles even included baptism in the call to faith (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). *"One can hardly read the New Testament without noticing the heavy stress the early church placed on baptism. They assumed that every genuine believer would embark on a life of obedience and discipleship. That was nonnegotiable. Therefore they viewed baptism as the turning point. Only those who were baptized were considered Christians. That is why the Ethiopian eunuch was so eager to be baptized (Acts 8:36-39).*

Unfortunately, the church today takes baptism more casually. It is not unusual to meet people who have been professing Christians for years but have never been baptized. That was unheard of in the New Testament church. Unfortunately, we have lost the focus on initial obedience" and a faith that works, that is, that expresses itself in actions (Faith Works by John MacArthur, Jr., p. 208).

Look at the early New Testament church and compare it to our practice today;

Mark 16:15-16

Acts 8:35-38

Acts 16:14-15

Acts 2:36-41

Acts 9:3-6; 17-18 cp.22:12-16

Acts 16:30-34

Acts 8:5, 12, 14-15

Acts 10:43-48

Acts 19:1-6

Because of the practice of our own traditions God is again calling the church to act as did the early New Testament church and respond to the gospel of the kingdom.

Questions

1. Read Acts 2:38. How many are to repent as a condition to receive the forgiveness of their sins? a. some of them. b. everyone of them [you]. c. part of them.
2. Read Acts 16:31; 8:37; Mark 16:16. How many are to believe with all their heart on the Lord [Master] Jesus [Saviour] Christ [anointed King] so that they might be saved? a. some people. b. everyone. c. only a few individuals.
3. Read Acts 2:38; 10:48; Mark 16:16. How many individuals that have repented of their sins and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ, are to be baptized? a. some. b. all. c. or none.
4. Read Acts 2:38 and Mark 16:16. Can an infant repent? Can an infant believe? Can an infant meet the scriptural requirements for baptism? Yes or No.
5. Read Acts 16:33; 10:43-48; 22:16. According to the New Testament, when a person turned to God through repentance and faith they were to immediately be baptized? True or False.
6. Read Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5. Baptism identifies a person with: a. the first Baptist church. b. the Catholic church. c. the Assemblies of God. d. the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Read the following scriptures and compare it with our practice today: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:5,12,14-15; 35-38; Acts 9:3-6, 17-18 compare with Acts 22:12-16; Acts 10:43-48; Acts 16:14-15, 30-34; Acts 19:1-6. Discuss among yourselves what changes need to take place.

Scriptures to use with Questions

1. **Read Acts 2:38.** [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
2. **Read Acts 16:31; 8:37; Mark 16:16. Acts 16:** [31] And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. **Acts 8:** [37] And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered

and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. **Mark 16:** [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

3. **Read Acts 2:38; 10:48; Mark 16:16. Acts 2:**[38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Acts 10:** [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. **Mark 16:** [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

4. **Read Acts 2:38 and Mark 16:16. Acts 2:** [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Mark 16:** [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

5. **Read Acts 16:33; 10:43-48; 22:16. Acts 16:** [33] At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized (NIV). **Acts 10:** [43] To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. [44] While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. [45] And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, [47] Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. **Acts 22:** [16] And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

6. **Read Acts 2:38; 8:16; 19:5. Acts 2:** [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Acts 8:** [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Acts 19:** [5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

7. **Read Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:5,12,14-15; 35-38; Acts 9:3-6, 17-18 compare with Acts 22:12-16; Acts 10:43-48; Acts 16:14-15, 30-34; Acts 19:1-6. Mark 16:** [15] And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **Acts 2:** [36] Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. [37] Now when they heard this,

they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [39] For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. [40] And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. [41] Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **Acts 8:** [5] Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. [12] But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [14] Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: [15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. [36] And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? [37] And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. [38] And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. **Acts 9:** [3] And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: [4] And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [5] And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. [6] And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. [17] And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. [18] And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. **Acts 22:** [12] And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, [13] Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. [14] And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. [15] For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. [16] And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. **Acts 10:** [43] To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

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astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, [47] Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. **Acts 16:** [14] And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. [15] And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us. [30] And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? [31] And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. [32] And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. [33] And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. [34] And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. **Acts 19:** [1] And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, [2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. [3] And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. [4] Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. [5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Answer Key – Lesson 11 The Doctrine of Christ: Identity with Christ through Water Baptism

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Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.
www.delessons.org
www.krowtracts.com

Address in Uganda, East Africa:
Tel. +256 712 943 492, +256 753 943 492
Email: tministergoldenrule@yahoo.com
goldenrulem@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 916 Entebbe, Uganda – East Africa