

## **Water Baptism**

### **A. Definition**

It is a ceremony, or rite which is biblically commanded and approved by the church to communicate what had happened to the person who had already repented and accepted Jesus as his Lord and saviour. It is not an ordinance that saves. By baptism, a believer identifies himself with the Lord Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection and through this ceremony he makes known his faith in Christ publicly.

### **B. The importance of water baptism**

1. It pictures or symbolises spiritual cleansing. 1 Pet.3:18-22.

It is an act of spiritual washing or cleansing of sins which was accompanied through Jesus Christ.

2. It pictures or symbolises the death of one's old life, his burial and resurrection to live a new life. Rom.6:1-11, Col.2:12, Eph.4:5 and Gal.3:27.

It is not the rite of water baptism but of work performed by God uniting us in Jesus so completely that His death and resurrection become our own.

We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life.

3. It is the command of the Lord Jesus. Mt.28:19-20.

4. It is a confirmation of the commitment to the Lord publicly. Mt.10:32.

### **C. What does baptize mean ?**

The Greek word for baptize is 'baptizo' which means to immerse or to dip someone or something into water.

1. How were the early believers baptised?

(a) Mk.1:9-11, vs.10... And when He came up out of the water, immediately ....

(b) Act.8:38-39, vs.39... And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord ...

### **D. Examples of early disciples**

1. When were the new believers baptised?

(a) Act. 2:41 So those who received the Word were baptized, and there were added that day about 3,000 souls

(b) Act.8:35-38, vs.36... And he commanded the chariot to stop and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch and he baptized him

(c ) Act.10:47-48 Cornelius and his family, relatives and friends. They were baptised the same day.

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**E. Is water baptism necessary for one to be saved?**

1. Was the criminal who was crucified and repented baptised? Lk.23:43.

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2. Did Paul baptise all who believe in Christ? 1 Cor.1:14.

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**F. Application**

1. Do you want to obey the Lord's command to be baptised?

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2. When do you want to be baptised?

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