



NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIAN SEMINARY

Water Baptism

in a

Christian's Life

Matthew 3:1-6 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, [2] And saying, Repent ye: ...[5] Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, [6] And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Baptism is an ordinance immediately instituted by Christ (Matthew 28:19, Matthew 28:20) and designed to be observed in the church, like that of the Lord's Supper, "till he come". The words "baptize" and "baptism" are simply Greek words transferred into English. It means to dip a thing into an element or liquid. To baptize something in water means to put it under the water. All of the instances of baptism recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:26-39; Acts 9:17, Acts 9:18; Acts 22:12-16; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 16:32-34) suggest that it was by dipping the person baptized by immersion.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two symbolic ordinances of the New Testament. The Supper represents the work of Christ, and Baptism the work of the Holy Spirit. In the Supper, a small amount of bread and grape juice used in this ordinance exhibits in symbol the great work of Christ. In Baptism, the work of the Holy Spirit is fully seen in the water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The point in dispute is not the baptism of believers. It is whether the infant children of believers, i.e., of members of the church, ought to be baptized. Because a profession of faith is required first, this proves that a young person must confess Christ as Lord and Savior as well as have enough maturity to live according to the dictates of the Word of God.

Baptism is for sincere believers.

This does not mean we should be so cautious in baptizing people that we refuse to do it until a person's character in Christ is well proven. Nowhere in the book of Acts is it recorded that people were made to wait or to sit through week-long courses before they were allowed to be baptized. Wholehearted faith, genuine repentance and the intention to live for

Jesus was all that was required. It was not the understanding of the doctrines of faith or repentance that was required, but the real presence of faith and repentance that was necessary in the hearts of those who were to be baptized.

The language of Paul the Apostle is clear: the old man is dead and buried in the water, and he rises from this cleansing grave a new man. The full significance of the rite would have been lost had immersion not been practiced. It may be remarked that the standard lexicons uniformly give the meaning of baptizo as "dip" or "immerse." They do not give "pour" or "sprinkle," nor has anyone ever adduced an instance where this verb means "pour" or "sprinkle." The presumption is therefore in favor of "dip" in the New Testament. ***Only immersion in water shows a burial.***

Jesus commanded that disciples be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). All things we do are to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17). The early church baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38), in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48), and in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:5). ***The Scriptures confound any attempt to impose a formula of wording for baptism.*** The significance of water baptism is not in the words said, but in the act performed by the believer. There are Three Baptisms for Believers

There are Three Baptisms for Believers

1. Baptized into the Body of Christ at repentance and the new birth. Called "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5), because it is the only baptism that saves the soul and brings into the body of Christ. This happens at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is the agent to baptize into Christ and into His body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
2. Water baptism after one is saved as an outward profession of the inward work of the Holy Ghost. The minister is the agent to baptize into water (Matthew 28:19). Christ is the agent to baptize in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; John 1:31-33)
3. Holy Spirit baptism, Godly power for service. It can take place before water baptism (Acts 10:44-48) or after (Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-11; Acts 8:12-21; Acts 19:1-7)

This instance proves people may be baptized with the Holy Spirit first!

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

This next scripture shows that baptism in water clearly came before the Holy Ghost baptism.

Acts 19:2-6 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.

This instance proves people may be baptized with the Holy Spirit first!

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

This next scripture shows that baptism in water clearly came before the Holy Ghost baptism.

Acts 19:2-6 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.

Summary

First of all, water baptism is Christ's command.

Second, a profession of faith in Christ is required.

Third, it can happen before or after the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Fourth, it is not required to be saved, but it is required after being saved.

All believers are eligible, for it is an outward profession of what Christ has accomplished on the inside of their life. Water Baptism is a testimony by the individuals that they are sincere in their beliefs, and they are sealing their confession with this public physical confession of their faith in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Romans 6:3-5 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] ***Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*** [5] For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

