

BELIEVERS BAPTISM

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:1-4

We are commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Commission to make disciples, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Through the Great Commission, Christ Jesus our Lord instructs us to ensure that His disciples are baptized and taught obedience to all things He has commanded. Believers must be baptised. Mark 16:16 ***“Those who believe and are baptised will be saved.”*** Baptism is a command of Christ, and it is His example. Baptism doesn't make us a believer. Baptism testifies that we are believers. Baptism doesn't save us. We are saved by the grace of God alone on the basis of the shed blood of Christ's Redemption on the Cross, received by Faith alone.

“Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27

“Buried with Him in baptism in which you also were raised with Him through Faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12

“There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God), through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:21

Baptism is a dramatic portrayal of the death, burial and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are reminded afresh that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose again for our Justification.

It is a powerful portrayal of our union with Christ, identifying with His death, burial and Resurrection. Baptism symbolises regeneration, being born again by the power of the Holy Spirit – buried with Christ in baptism, risen to newness of life with Him.

By baptism we identify ourselves with Christ and His Church. It is an outward act to symbolise an inward reality. Baptism is an act of obedience to the clear command of Christ and His apostles. It is an important step of obedience on the road to discipleship. A public testimony of our commitment to Christ, following the example of Christ.

Throughout the Book of Acts we see that the New Testament pattern is baptism of believers by immersion, as we see on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41); in Samaria (Acts 8:12); the Sudanese treasurer (Acts 8:38); Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18); Lydia – the first European convert (Acts 16:15); the Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16:33); the believers in Corinth (Acts 18:8); and the believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:5).

“And he commanded them to be baptised in the Name of the Lord.” Acts 10:48

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptised, wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.” Acts 22:16

“For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one Body – whether Jews or Greek, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13

“Jesus answered, ‘most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.’” John 3:5

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20

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