

Lesson 29 – A Brand New Start

- 1) What is the great commission given by Jesus to those who follow Him?

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, _____ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

NOTE: Every Christian is commissioned to lead others to a knowledge of Jesus and to be baptized. This was evidently very important to Jesus because it was one of the last things He said while He walked on this earth.

- 2) Is baptism an issue of salvation?

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is _____ shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the Spirit, he cannot _____ into the kingdom of God.”

NOTE: Yes, baptism is an issue of salvation. Baptism can be compared to a marriage. It is a public ceremony expressing one’s love and commitment to Jesus Christ. There are no “magical properties” within the water itself. It is a ceremony that proclaims the change that has happened within the heart of the candidate when he has accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

- 3) According to the Bible, how many kinds of baptism are there?

Ephesians 4:5 “One Lord, one faith, one _____,”

NOTE: Today in the Christian world, there are many, many kinds of baptism. But the Bible describes only one baptism. What is that one baptism?

- 4) What Jesus an infant when He was baptized?

Matthew 3:13-17 “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And _____, when he was _____, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

NOTE: Jesus was not an infant, but He was an adult when He was baptized. Infant baptism is not a biblical teaching, but rather it was a man made creed. Consider the following statement about this issue...

The following curse was pronounced on Roman Catholic church defectors: "May the Son who suffered for us curse him! May the Holy Spirit who suffered for us in baptism curse him!" "Let him be accursed who says adults must be baptized." (History of Romanism, P.510)

So, I guess, according to this train of logic, John the Baptist and Jesus are accursed!!! Sadly, this seems to be yet another unbiblical teaching coming from the Roman Church.

5) How much water does it take to be baptized?

John 3:23 “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was _____: and they came, and were baptized.”

NOTE: Evidently, having a lot of water around is very crucial when a person is baptized. If not, John would not have needed to be in a place where there was much water. This fact brings to mind a mode of baptism that is practiced freely today; baptism by sprinkling or infusion, as it is sometimes called. Please consider with me the following statements regarding this topic...

"For several centuries after the establishment of Christianity, baptism was conferred by immersion, but since the twelfth century the practice of baptizing by infusion has prevailed in the Catholic church, as this manner is attended with less inconvenience than baptism by immersion." (James Cardinal Gibbons, The faith of our Fathers, 110th. ed. p.277)

6) What then is the proper way of Baptism?

Mark 1:9-10 “And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was _____ of John in Jordan. And straightway coming _____ of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:”

Acts 8:38 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went _____ the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

Colossians 2:12 “_____ with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

NOTE: The word “baptize” is derived from the Greek word, “baptizo” which means to immerse, submerge or plunge underneath. Therefore, the biblical

baptism is baptism by immersion. Sprinkling is not biblical and is not a proper baptism.

- 7) What does baptism by immersion symbolize?

Romans 6:3-6 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his _____? Therefore we are _____ by baptism into death: that like as Christ was _____ from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in _____ of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

NOTE: The symbolic meaning of baptism is of the utmost significance. That is the reason why other modes of baptism cannot be a substitute for it. It represents the death of the old life of sin and a resurrection to a new life free from sin, its guilt and condemnation. This is a wonderful experience for all those that make this public declaration of their allegiance to Jesus Christ. It is the greatest joy to have all of your sins removed from you!

- 8) What must precede baptism?

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, _____, 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.”

NOTE: Before a person is baptized they should recognize that their sins put Jesus on the cross. They should realize that they are a sinner, and should have a sorrow for sin that is deep enough for them to turn away from sin. The good news is that repentance is a gift. (See Acts 5:31)

- 9) How do those who want to be baptized react when they hear God’s Word?

Acts 2:41 “Then they that _____ his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.”

NOTE: Those who want to be baptized are eager to follow what God says in His Word. They will not make excuses, but they will find out what best pleases the Lord.

- 10) If I am baptized, do I have to join a church?

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into _____, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

NOTE: The question, "Do I have to join the church?" is an interesting one. If you are baptized why wouldn't you want to join the church? We are not baptized as independent atoms. God wants us to have fellowship one with another. It is like a race car driver that doesn't want to go to the racetrack. A true, born again, believer will want to join the church.

11) What is one oftentimes neglected prerequisite for baptism?

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and ____ all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."

NOTE: Something that many ministers forget today is to teach. Teach whom? Teach the potential candidates before baptism. Many churches in the world today, will baptize anyone that comes down to the altar when an appeal is made. It is wonderful that people respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, but this should not be when a person is baptized. A person needs to be taught the basic principles of Christianity so that they can make an informed decision about baptism.

12) How should you respond to God when He is calling you to be baptized?

Acts 22:16 "And now why _____ thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

NOTE: In most cases waiting to make a decision is wise. But, in spiritual matters that pertain to eternal life, delay is dangerous.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE...

Do you want to have a new start, to experience a new life? Do you want to make special preparations for baptism? Yes or No

If you want to be contacted about your special decision to follow Jesus...

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____