

LBC Discipleship Course

Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 3: "Baptism & the Lord's Supper" (TC)

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 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.

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

1Corinthians 11:24-25 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.** 25 - After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

What is baptism?

Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church. The baptism of believers by immersion in water is the biblical pattern. It is a picture of our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, identifies us with Christ, joins us to the local church, and testifies of the believers desire to live their lives for Christ and not themselves.

I. What Does Baptism Do?

- a. Baptism identifies you with Christ.
 - i. John the Baptist's baptism associated His followers with His message of righteousness.
 - ii. Israelites were baptized unto Moses, identifying with his leadership.
- b. Baptism joins you with a local church. (Acts 2:41)
 1. This was the local church assembly in Jerusalem, of which there were about 120 believers.
 2. The two prerequisites for church membership and identification are salvation and baptism.
- c. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)

II. Is Baptism Important?

- *The importance of baptism is seen by considering the following:*
 - a. Jesus Christ was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - i. Jesus was baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness". He did not get baptized to become "righteous"; Jesus was sinless when He was baptized. Jesus submitted to baptism:
 1. To set an example of obedience to His followers.
 - a. Jesus submitted to the Father's command that He be baptized of John, and we also need to obey the Father's command to be baptized.
 - b. Jesus commanded that people be baptized. (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - c. The early church baptized those who trusted in Christ never seeing it as optional. (Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13, 36, 38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5)

III. How Does Someone Get Baptized?

- a. John the Baptist baptized "in" the Jordan River. (Matt. 3:6)
- b. Jesus was baptized by being immersed in water. (Matthew 3:16)
- c. John considered a place suitable for baptism where there was much water. (John 3:23)
- d. Philip and the eunuch went down into the water for baptism and then came up out of the water. (Acts 8:38-39)
 - i. The word baptize comes from the Greek "baptizo" which means "to dip or to immerse." John MacArthur says, "It literally means to dip an object into water or other liquid, not to have liquid put on the object."

- ii. In the New Testament, the Greek word for "sprinkling" is *rontizo*. This word would have been used to describe baptism if sprinkling had been the method used.
- iii. How were people baptized in the Bible? Was it by submersion or sprinkling?
- iv. The Point: Total immersion was the only method of baptizing in the Bible; sprinkling was never done or taught in the New Testament.

IV. Who Should Get Baptized?

- a. Only those who have believed in Jesus Christ.
- b. The Bible is very clear on this fact: "Believe and be baptized".
 - i. Acts 2:41 – "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:..."
 - ii. Acts 8:12 – "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized,"
 - iii. Acts 8:26-38 - According to this passage of scripture, what did Philip say was necessary for the Ethiopian eunuch to do before he was baptized? Believe on the Lord.
- c. Should babies be baptized? Why should a baby not be baptized?
 - i. Baptism does not save a person; rather it is the first step of obedience after you are saved.
 - ii. Salvation is a prerequisite to baptism, and since babies cannot "believe" on Christ due to intellectual incapability, they have no need to be baptized.
 - iii. There is no scriptural support for infant baptism.

V. Is Baptism Necessary For Salvation?

- a. Many churches teach that baptism saves a person, and that your sins are washed away through the waters of baptism. This is known as "baptismal regeneration". They teach that baptism is a sacrament. The word "sacrament" means "a visible sign that symbolizes or confers inward grace." Meaning, it brings you into a relationship, or closer relationship with God, it merits God's favor. This is why many churches will baptize infants; they believe baptism is necessary for salvation.
- b. Baptists refer to baptism as an ordinance, an authoritative rule, law, decree or command. Baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation, and that baptism has no ability to merit us favor with God or aid our salvation.
- c. If we want God's "perfect" will to be done in our lives, we need to start by obeying His "known" will. Baptism is the first step of obedience for the new believer!

What is the Lord's Supper?

The partaking of bread & fruit of the vine to commemorate the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination of the believer. (Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:23-31)

- I. What is it? (Matthew 26:17-30)
 - a. Partaking of bread (body) & fruit of the vine (blood). (Matt. 26:26-27)
 - b. A picture of Jesus' death for our sins. (Matthew 26:28)
- II. Why do we observe the Lord's Supper?
 - a. Jesus commands us to observe it in remembrance of Him. (Luke 22:19-20)
 - b. It reminds of Christ's sacrifice for our sins. (Luke 22:19)
 - c. It pictures the Lord's death. (I Cor. 11:26)
 - d. In anticipation of His return. (I Cor. 11:26)
- III. Where do we observe the Lord's Supper?
 - a. At your local church: The early church observed the Lord's Supper as a body. (Acts 2:42, 46-47, 20:7-8)
- IV. Are there any restrictions to partaking in the Lord's Supper?
 - a. Personal salvation through Jesus Christ, baptism, and a solemn self-examination of one's life before Christ are prerequisites to the privilege of partaking in the Lord's Supper.