

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM**

### WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. Jesus set the *Example for us* to follow.

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9

2. Jesus *Instructed* His followers to be baptized.

“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.” Matthew 28:19-20a

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It *Identifies* me with Christ in his death and resurrection.

“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

2. It *Symbolizes* my new life as a Christian.

“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 6:4

3. It *Shows* my obedience to Christ.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

**Key Point:** Remember, baptism does not wash away your sin. Only Jesus can do that! It does not make you believe it shows you already believe in Christ. Like a wedding ring, it tells others that you are joined to Christ and Christ alone.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2: 8-9

### WHAT IS THE METHOD OF BAPTISM?

1. Jesus was baptized by *Immersion*.

“When he had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water...” Matthew 3:16

2. The New Testament believers were baptized by immersion.

“... And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...” Acts 8:38-39

3. The Word for “baptized” means Immerse in water.

The Greek word “baptize” means to immerse under water (fully wet)

**Key Point:** The reason for immersion is that it clearly describes burial and resurrection.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Every person should be baptized After they have believed in Christ.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day ...” Acts 2:41

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” Acts 8:12

Scripture reveals that baptism involves four things:

1. The right person – a believer
2. The right reasons – obedience and declaration of your new faith
3. The right method – immersion
4. The right authority – a local New Testament church (Acts 2:41-47)

The essentials of baptism are:

1. Believe in Jesus for salvation.
2. Make your commitment public.
3. Request to be baptized by immersion.