

## **LESSON #9 WATER BAPTISM**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Water Baptism represents a major experience in the life of the believer. Understanding this event enriches the believer and creates an appreciation for God's gift of salvation and its benefits.

Water Baptism is one of the most important ordinances and sacraments of the Church. The word of God commands every believer to be baptized. Unfortunately, many believers have no understanding as to the purpose and importance of water baptism.

#### Webster defines:

Ordinance: 1: an authoritative decree or direction, order, a law set forth by a governmental authority; specifically a municipal regulation; 2: something ordained or decreed by fate or a deity, 3: a prescribed usage, practice or ceremony.

Sacrament: 1: a formal religious act that is sacred as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality; esp. one believed to have been instituted or recognized by Jesus Christ.

Baptism: Baptizo (Greek) – to be submerged, to place into

1. The Bible teaches that there are three Baptisms:

- ◆ Water Baptism
- ◆ Holy Spirit Baptism
- ◆ Fire Baptism
  
- ◆ Matthew 3:11

2. There are always (4) parts to any baptism.

- ◆ The Baptizer
- ◆ The Candidate
- ◆ The Element one is placed into
- ◆ The Purpose

3. Although we are saved by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, Water Baptism is an absolutely essential key element in our relationship and walk with God.

Question:

Why must we be baptized?

Answer:

Jesus commanded it.

- ◆ Matthew 28:19-20
- ◆ Mark 16:15-16

Question:

What is the purpose of Water Baptism?

Answer:

The purpose of Water Baptism is for the born again believer to be publicly identified with Jesus Christ, His death, His burial, and His resurrection.

- ◆ Matthew 10:32-33
- ◆ Romans 6:3-5
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 12:13
- ◆ Galatians 3:27

Questions:

What happens in the process of water baptism?

Answer:

Enmity between God and man is cut away.

4. Enmity is a feeling or condition of hostility. When Adam and Eve refused to yield to God's plan for their lives, their move for independence brought enmity between them and God. The desire for independence from God's control has been a curse to Adam's race. It's called the "nature of wrath."

- ◆ Ephesians 2:3
- ◆ Romans 8:7

5. When we are baptized, the enmity is cut away and the feud between God and man is brought to an end. Love for God begins to grow because man's will has been freed and he is now free to choose God's will and plan for his life.

### Circumcision of Heart

- a. Physical Circumcision is a part of the Abrahamic Covenant.

- ◆ Genesis 17:10-14

- b. Spiritual Circumcision (Old Testament)

- ◆ Ezekiel 11:19
- ◆ Jeremiah 4:4
- ◆ Deuteronomy 10:16

- c. Spiritual Circumcision (New Testament)

- ◆ Romans 2:29
- ◆ Colossians 2:11-12

### The old man (flesh) is buried:

At the moment of salvation the "old man" dies. Anything that is dead must be buried. Therefore, the "old man" needs to have a formal burial. This burial takes place in the waters of baptism.

At the moment of salvation the "new man" is created. When you rise from the water you rise to walk in the newness of life.

- ◆ 2 Corinthians 5:17

6. New Testament water baptism is only valid after conversion. The correct way to be baptized is in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Acts 2:38, 41
- ◆ Acts 8:12
- ◆ Acts 8:36-38
- ◆ Acts 9:17-18
- ◆ Acts 10:47-48
- ◆ Acts 16:15
- ◆ Acts 18:8

## Conclusion:

In Matthew 18:16, the word of God says... "that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established". We are to continue in the Apostles doctrine which was given them by Jesus Christ the Chief Apostle. If you have not been water baptized since you believed, you must be baptized immediately. Acts 8:36 says... "What doth hinder me to be baptized?"