

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE HAPPY OCCASION OF BAPTISM 17



TRUE BAPTISM

1. Why must we get baptized?

Matthew 28:18-20

2. What is the correct way to baptize?

Matthew 3:13-16

3. Is baptism indispensable to be saved?

Mark 16:16

4. What does baptism symbolize?

Romans 6:3

5. What statement does God make on the occasion of baptism?

Matthew 3:17

THE WONDERFUL RESULTS OF BAPTISM

6. What two blessings are received with baptism?

Acts 2:38

7. What divine institution do the baptize join?

Acts 2:41, 42, 47

8. What glorious experience does the baptized individual obtain?

Romans 6:4

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus.

Acts 8:37

2. Abandon sin.

Romans 6:11-13

3. Ask for holy baptism.

Acts 8:35-38

4. Respond to God's calling without delay.

Hebrews 3:15

I believe in baptism by immersion. I wish to get baptized following the example of Jesus.

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

What is Baptism?

The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning “to sink,” “to submerge.” Baptism is a symbol of death to a life of unbelief, and birth to a new experience in Christ. It is a reminder of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3, 4). Our Lord Jesus Christ, even though he did not need to be baptized, he did so as an example for us (John 3:15). We are baptized because Jesus indicated we should be and in name of the holy Godhead (Matthew 28:19).

Who Can Be Baptized?

All who meet with the required conditions. Among those conditions are: Believing in the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:36-38). Repenting of all sin (Acts 2:38). Confessing all sin (Proverbs 28:13). Knowing doctrine (Matthew 28:20). Practicing doctrine (Matthew 7:21). Asking for holy baptism (Acts 8:36).

When we apply these conditions, it is clear that a young child cannot be baptized. But a minor that understands doctrine can be. If we have been baptized without our consent, without a complete comprehension of all truth, in an incorrect way, or if we have gone away from the truth, the Bible authorizes a new baptism (Acts 19:1-5).

Forms of Baptism

According to the meaning of the word, with Jesus’ and the apostles’ custom, and with its symbolism, the baptism must be by immersion, in other words, covering the person completely with water. Jesus “went up out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). John baptized where “there was plenty of water” (John 3:23). “They went down both into the water” (Acts 8:38). There is only one true baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

Cardinal James Gibbons says: “For several centuries, after the establishing of Christianity, baptism was ordinarily conferred by immersion, but since the 12th century the practice of baptism by infusion has prevailed in the Catholic Church...”—*The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 256.

Monsignor John Straubinger, commenting on a verse about baptism, says: “It refers to the baptism of the early Christians, which were baptized by completely submerging in water. Just as Christ was buried upon his death, we are buried in the waters of baptism.”—*New Testament*, p. 614.

The Result of Baptism

When this ritual is done sincerely, it is a public testimony of turning away from the sinful past life and the birth of a new life in Christ. The forgiveness of past sins is promised as well as an abundant measure of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Also, the baptized individual has a new relationship with Christ (Galatians 3:27). He becomes a member of Christ’s church (Acts 2:41).

After Baptism

The old life has been buried in the liquid tomb. Now a new life begins (Romans 6:4). Henceforth, the way of living must change completely (Ephesians 4:22-24). Normally, there should be no more sin (1 John 3:9). Now we have to be careful with evil, trust in God and the evil one will not touch us (1 John 5:18). The great work of sanctification begins now (Romans 6:22); this consists of a constant perfecting of our character. This task lasts the whole life. There must not be standstills or relapses (Proverbs 4:18).

The secret of sanctification consist in a perfect union with our Lord Jesus (John 15:4, 5). Without Him, we can do nothing. With Him, everything is possible (Philippians 4:13). There will be a constant struggle with the “old man,” who we should “crucify,” and allow that Christ live in us (Galatians 2:20). We must never lose heart, but rather persevere until the end (Matthew 24:13).