

Burying the Past and Raised to a New Life

-A Public Demonstration of Faith-

[27]

*Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin

- 1.) How important is the rite of Baptism? Mark 16:16 *He that _____ and is _____ shall be _____; but he that believeth not shall be _____.* NOTE: **Is baptism important? It must be according to the verse above, where it is plain to be a salvation issue. The fact that the word "cross" is mentioned 28 times and the words "baptism, baptizeth, baptized, baptize" are mentioned over 90 times in the Bible -prove its solemn importance. The new birth is not only a must but a public display of burying this old past life of sin. It is of prime importance as a witness to others around us but also as a witness to heaven, to the angels and other heavenly beings!**
- 2.) Where was the ceremony of baptism first practiced and why? Matthew 3:1 *In those days came _____ the _____, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 5 Then went out to him _____, and all _____, and _____ the region round about Jordan, 6 And were _____ of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.* NOTE: **John the baptizer was preparing the hearts of the people ahead if time for Jesus' ministry. And since it was God Himself that brought John the baptizer along to preach revival and repentance from sin, the ordinance of Baptism was brought in through His special messenger. This was a ceremony that would publicly testify of the individual's U-turn conversion in dying to the old way of life and rising to a new and recreated life in Christ.**
- 3.) How many types of Baptism are there according in the Bible? Ephesians 4:5 *One Lord, one faith, one _____,* NOTE: **There is only one acceptable form of baptism according to the bible. Any methods used that are not taught or advocated by scripture are not acceptable to God. And God is very particular as we'll see in the next question below.**
- 4.) Where else in God's Word do we see an example of a method of worship that God required and would accept nothing else? Genesis 4:3 *And in process of time it came to pass, that _____ brought of the _____ of the ground an _____ unto the LORD. 4 And _____, he also brought of the _____ of his _____ and of the _____ thereof. And the LORD had _____ unto Abel and to his _____: 5 But unto Cain and to his _____ he had _____ respect. And Cain was very _____, and his countenance fell. 6 And the LORD said unto _____, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance _____? 7 If thou doest _____, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest _____ well, _____ lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.* NOTE: **There is a reason why God had to be particular in this situation. This was an act of worship that would directly point to a sin-offering Savior who would come to this world and be a sacrifice for us. Only through this act of obedience would the**

blessing of appropriating a substitute be effective for eliminating sin out of the life. And sin is our great problem and there was no other solution for removing it!

- 5.) What is the meaning of the word “baptize”? Colossians 2:12 _____ with him in _____, wherein also ye are _____ with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath _____ him from the _____. NOTE: The Greek word means to immerse, plunge under or submerge. The verse above says “Buried” which still means the same thing. When the person is plunged under and then comes back up, he is raised like Christ was raised from the dead. So, proper Biblical baptism as we’re going to see further, has to have the person put under the water. Modes of baptism like sprinkling, affusion, pouring, etc. will not do. Let’s look at this issue more deeply.
- 6.) How does Paul liken the ordinance of baptism to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ? Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were _____ into Jesus Christ were baptized into his _____. 4 Therefore we are _____ with him by baptism into _____ : that like as Christ was _____ up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we _____ should walk in _____ of life. 5 For if we have been _____ together in the likeness of his _____, we shall be also in the likeness of his _____. : NOTE: Baptism is a beautiful ceremony in which the minister of God takes the candidate and gently lays him/her back into and under the water and then raises him/her up symbolizing that this person has given him or herself wholly to the LORD and is dying to the old life of sin (burying it) and then rising to a whole new life that is under the control of the Holy Spirit of God.
- 7.) What indication do we see that John the baptizer used the method of immersion for his baptisms? John 3:23 And John also was _____ in Aenon near to Salim, _____ there was _____ there: and they came, and were baptized. Mark 1:10 And straightway _____ of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: NOTE: Obviously from the verses above there had to be a lot of water for the baptism to take place as Jesus came up out of the water and John needed much water to perform the baptisms.
- 8.) What further evidence do we see in the example of the Ethiopian eunuch who was baptized by Philip? Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and _____ went down _____ the water, _____ Philip and the eunuch; and he _____ him. Acts 8:39a And when they were come _____ of the water, NOTE: Again we see from the wording here that this was an immersion process.
- 9.) Where did all these unbiblical forms of baptism like pouring or sprinkling or other variations apart from full immersion come from? Matthew 15:9 But in _____ they do _____ me, teaching for _____ the commandments of _____. NOTE: Unbiblical practices develop over periods of time along with the subtle ways of the enemy Satan,

where little compromises take place maybe in the name of convenience.

10.) What was Jesus' command right before He ascended back to heaven? Matthew 28:19
____ ye therefore, and ____ all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 _____ them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the ____ of the world. Amen. **NOTE: Teaching should always precede baptism so the candidate can intelligently know and understand what he or she is committing to. All who join God's church on earth should not only be instructed and informed about a knowledge of what it means to be a follower of Jesus but to know the basic teachings of scripture and especially "present truth" and the important issues of the Mark of the Beast and end-time preparation. The command to go teach and make disciples and followers of Jesus is unmistakably clear in scripture and with that is the command to baptize!**

11.) What are the essential qualifications for the person who desires to take this step of Christian baptism?

- A) Accept Jesus as your personal Savior and become "born again" **2Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in _____, he is a _____ creature: _____ things are passed away; behold, all things are become _____. John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be _____ again, he _____ see the kingdom of God.*
- B) Believe with the whole heart **Acts 8:37** *And Philip said, If thou _____ with _____ thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*
- C) Do a U-turn from sin **Luke 3:7** *Then said he to the _____ that came forth to be _____ of him, O generation of vipers, who hath _____ you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore _____ worthy of _____, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up _____ unto Abraham. Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his _____, we shall be also in the likeness of his _____: 6 Knowing this, that our _____ man is _____ with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should _____ serve sin.*
- D) Be truly sorry for sins of the past [repentance] **Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said unto them, _____, and be _____ 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.*
- E) Believe and understand all the basic teachings of Jesus **Mark 16:16** *He that _____ and is _____ shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and _____ all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 _____ them to _____ all things whatsoever I have _____ you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

12.) How important is it for a person preparing for baptism to make as much right or amends as he/she can before taking this important step? Ezekiel 33:15 If the wicked _____ the pledge, give _____ that he had _____, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall _____ live, he shall not _____. **Matthew 5:22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is _____ with his _____ without a cause shall be in danger of the _____: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in _____ of hell fire. **23** Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the _____, and there rememberest that thy _____ hath ought _____ thee; **24** Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; _____ be _____ to thy brother, and _____ come and offer thy gift. **NOTE:** Obviously if you have done damage to another person either though selfishly taking advantage of them like through theft or loss to them, or if you have had a quarrel or fight and there are still bad feelings or bitterness, -amends and reconciliation is a must. Your baptism will truly have much more meaning and will be a real living experience when you can as far as possible, make everything right. Then the fullness of God's blessing can rest upon you with a peace that will thrill your soul.

13.) Does it necessarily mean that once a person is baptized, they will never slip and fall?
1John 2:1 My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye sin _____. And _____ any man _____, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **NOTE:** Notice it doesn't say "when" any man sins but "if" any man sins. Sin can never be excused, or made provision for, but at the same time baby Christians are new children in the faith and they often can stumble and fall. But when they do, they get right back up, go to the LORD for forgiveness and continue to grow in their Christian experience. We cannot expect new Christians to have the knowledge and experience that more mature Christians have. We also need to keep in mind that what a more advanced mature Christian considers to be sin, may not be sin for the baby Christian. The Bible says plainly that sin is only accounted to us when we have a knowledge of it from the law and discern it and then still do wrong. **James 4:17** Therefore to him that _____ to do good, and doeth it _____, to him it is _____. It is like literal babies when they first come into the world, they are not held accountable until they can be intelligently taught right from wrong!

14.) The Bible says Jesus was our perfect example; was He baptized? Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to _____ all _____. Then he suffered him. **16** And Jesus, when he was _____, went _____ straightway _____ of the _____: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

15.) Are there any situations where it can be physically impossible to baptize a born-again Christian? Does this mean they wouldn't be saved? Luke 23:32 And there were also _____ other, malefactors, led with him to be put to _____. **42** And he said unto Jesus,

Lord, _____ me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee To day, _____ thou be with me in _____. NOTE: *Here is a good example of the repentant thief on the cross who was given the assurance of salvation that day in a horrible situation that obviously was impossible for him to be baptized. The ceremony in and of itself does not save you; however, at the same time when it is possible for this act of faith to be carried out, it should by all means be done. If this thief hadn't been bound to a cross by crucifixion, there is no doubt that he would've happily had this rite administered for him. This may be at least one of the reasons why sinless Jesus still allowed himself to be baptized, so that He would not only be an example but a substitute as well for those who couldn't be baptized but still be saved.*

16.) Can a person be baptized without joining a church and body of believers? What does the Bible say? **Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are _____ in one _____; and be ye thankful. **1:18** And he is the head of the _____, the _____: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **1Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all _____ into one _____, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been _____ made to drink into _____ Spirit. **Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord _____ to the _____ daily such as should be saved. **41** Then they that gladly received his word were _____: and the same day there were _____ unto them about three thousand _____. **Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the _____ of ourselves _____, as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. NOTE: *Throughout the scriptures is taught the concept that bodies of believers were to assemble together whether it was the synagogue or temple in Old Testament times or the church in New Testament times. It is very plain from the Bible that when an individual is baptized, they become part of a connected body of believers that is organized for service and nurture with order and discipline. To think that one can be baptized, then become an independent atom to go on his or her own private way goes completely against the teaching of scripture, not to speak of the spiritual disaster for a Christian who thinks they can do this and be strong and vibrant spiritually!*

17.) Is it ever necessary to be rebaptized and is there a place or situation for it to be done? **Acts 19:1** And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, _____ having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding _____ disciples, **2** He said unto them, Have ye received the _____ since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have _____ so much as _____ whether there be _____ Holy Ghost. **3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye _____? And they said, Unto _____ baptism. **4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the _____ of _____, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which _____ come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **5** When they _____ this, they were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus. NOTE: *Here were a few Christian believers who had been baptized by John, but were*

Lacking in the understanding of a major truth about the Holy Spirit. In this case, these people were rebaptized. Someone might ask, "does this mean that if a person stumbled and fell into sin that he should then be rebaptized?" No, not at all; not any more than a married couple having a quarrel or wronging each other and being required to get remarried. Only when accepting major new teachings of truth from the Bible and a major spiritual revival along with it, would baptism be recommended. Also, if one is plainly convicted that he hasn't been truly converted or born again, rebaptism may be in order. Another purpose for rebaptism would be if one had greatly turned away from the LORD for a lengthy period of time, left the church and went deep into the world.

18.) Is infant or baby baptism scriptural? Rom 7:7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not _____ sin, but by the _____: for I had not known _____, except the law had said, Thou shalt not _____. 8 But _____, taking occasion by the _____, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For _____ the law sin was _____. 9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the _____ came, sin _____, and I died. John 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were _____, ye should have no ____: but now ye say, We ____; therefore your sin _____. NOTE: If you see the 5 points above in question #11, it is quite evident that a baby or infant would not qualify. We have no scriptural examples for babies ever being baptized. Babies don't come into this world as "sinners." Do they have a selfish nature? Most certainly, but the Bible says sin is not accounted to someone who has no knowledge of law. The Bible doesn't teach "Original sin." Children are not held accountable for their parents or grandparents' sins. Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The _____ shall not bear the _____ of the _____, neither shall the father _____ the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the _____ of the wicked shall be upon _____. Sin comes about only by choice when we know right from wrong in an understanding of God's law.*

19.) What other Christian ordinances were established for God's church by Jesus Himself? *John 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is _____ needeth not save to wash his _____, but is _____ every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he _____ who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12 So after he had _____ their _____, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, _____ ye what I have _____ to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say _____; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have _____ your _____; ye also _____ to _____ one another's _____. 15 For I have given you an _____, that ye should do _____ I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The _____ is not _____ than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye _____ these things, _____ are ye if ye _____ them. NOTE: As stated before that we don't need to be rebaptized every time we might fall into sin. The foot washing service can do this. Most denominations probably don't follow this practice, but the injunction of Jesus is quite clear that we are blessed when we do it. Jesus said that it cleanses us in every way.*

When this service is done along with the partaking of the communion service (as mentioned below), it is at this time that reconciliation is to take place amongst fellow believers if there has been misunderstanding or wounded hearts -all can be made right at this time. It is a most beautiful sacred ceremony when it is carried out in the spirit of Christ. It is not necessary to have this done every week or even once a month for the sake of making this as a mere ritual or custom that could easily lose its significance! Two to four times a year is sufficient to be able to keep it as a very special sacred event.

20.) What other ordinance along with the foot washing did Jesus institute for His followers to practice ever after until He returns the second time? Matthew 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of _____ bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to _____ the passover? 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took _____, and _____ it, and _____ it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, _____; this is my _____. 27 And he took the _____, and gave _____, and gave it to them, saying, _____ ye all of it; Matthew 26:28 For this is my _____ of the new _____, which is shed for many for the _____ of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, _____ that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's _____. NOTE: **God knows we need this rich (physical) symbolism to help give substance and reality to our faith and devotion to Him. This is why Jesus instituted the ordinances of baptism by immersion, foot washing and the communion service with its unfermented wine (grape juice) and unleavened bread. Through this special service we are continually reminded of what Jesus' blood and broken body really are to us individually. Salvation becomes very real and our lives are impacted in a powerful way as we become new creatures in Christ!**

21.) In one sense how is baptism comparable to marriage in Christ? Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the _____ of God by _____ in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been _____ into Christ have put _____ Christ. 28 There is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be _____, then are ye Abraham's _____, and _____ according to the _____. NOTE: **Baptism is a sacred ceremony and is not to be taken lightly! It is a commitment to Christ and to follow and live His life. Even as a woman marries a man, forsakes every other man in her life and takes on his name, so does the Christian forsake all the old paths of sin and the world and cleave unto Christ who gave His all for us. A bride who unites to the man of her life becomes an heir and sharer in all his property and possessions. So does the follower of Jesus when he officially unites his life to Christ becomes the heir of all that Jesus possesses! This is an incredible thought, but it is just what the Bible says! What is holding you back from making this most important decision of your life?? You have everything to gain in taking this step and a whole eternity to lose if you don't!! Now is your opportunity to sign your response at the end of this study. Do it now!**

Brief Quiz

Circle One

- 1.) **True/False** – Baptism is a wonderful option for the new Christian to have done if it is convenient.
- 2.) **True/False** – Sprinkling or pouring water over the head of the believer is sufficient in most cases particularly if a lot of water is not available at the time.
- 3.) **True/False** – Baptism symbolizes the death, burial of the old life of sin and raising up to newness of life in Christ.
- 4.) **True/False** – There are dire situations where it may be impossible for this rite to be done in which Jesus' baptism substitutes for the believer.
- 5.) **True/False** – Understanding the basic teachings of God's Word and accepting Jesus' death and salvation are an important prerequisite for baptism.
- 6.) **True/False** – Babies should be baptized as soon as possible after they are born.
- 7.) **True/False** – Deep heart-felt repentance for sin and making things right with others is a very important step in preparation for baptism.
- 8.) **True/False** – The ordinances of communion and foot washing are important for maintenance and revival of the Christian experience.

My Response

This subject of Baptism symbolizing the death to my old life and arising to a new life connected to my Savior Jesus, has inspired me to take this step myself and follow Jesus all the way. I make my decision now to take the necessary steps in preparation for this special event and become a part of God's end-time church which keeps His commandments and the faith of Jesus.

Signed _____