

Lesson 10 – Church Ordinances – Baptism (Part 1 - History of Baptism)

I. The Definition of “baptism.”

- A. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word *‘baptizo’* which means to dip, to plunge, or to sink beneath water by immersion.
- B. In every New Testament example, to baptize was to immerse an individual in water.

II. The Baptism by John the Baptist.

- A. In the Bible, the first mention of baptism occurred when John the Baptist came forth from the wilderness preaching repentance and baptism. This was the first time it was practiced. Read Matthew 3:6
- B. John received his authority to baptize from heaven. Read:
 - 1. Matthew 21:25
 - 2. Mark 11:30
 - 3. Luke 20:4
- C. John baptized Christ and all the disciples. Read:
 - 1. Matthew 3:13-17
 - 2. Acts 1:21

III. The Baptism by Jesus Christ.

- A. The account of the baptism of Jesus Christ is given in:
 - 1. Matthew 3:13-17
 - 2. Mark 1:9-11
 - 3. Luke 3:21-22
 - 4. John 1:31-34

Christ walked from Galilee to Jordan, a distance of 60 miles, to be baptized by John the Baptist. It did make a difference with Christ.

- B. There could be doubt as to whether Jesus Himself ever administered baptism. John 3:22 would seem to teach that at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus did baptize, but not long after delegated this work to the disciples. Read John 4:1-2.

IV. Baptism by the Disciples.

- A. All the disciples were baptized by John the Baptist. Read Acts 1:21-22
- B. The disciples baptized those who were saved through the ministry of Christ and themselves. Read John 4:1-2

V. Baptism by the New Testament Church.

- A. Christ gave the authority to baptize in the church. Read Matthew 28:19-20.
- B. The New Testament clearly teaches that the church baptized all those who made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Peter preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 2:38
 - 2. Phillip preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 8:9-17
 - 3. Paul received baptism. Read Acts 9:18
 - 4. Paul preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 16:14-15

VI. Baptism Today

- A. All New Testament Churches administer baptism as it was done during the time of Christ.
- B. Briefly we summarize the history of baptism:
 - 1. John the Baptist received instructions and authority to baptize from heaven.
 - 2. John the Baptist baptized Jesus and all the disciples.
 - 3. Christ and His disciples continued the practice of baptism.
 - 4. Christ placed the authority to baptize in the church.
 - 5. Christ commanded the churches to baptize the converts, and this is done by New Testament churches to this day.

Questions:

- 1. Give a definition of the word “baptize.”
- 2. Describe the first mention of baptism in the New Testament.
- 3. Describe the baptism of Jesus Christ.
- 4. Discuss baptism as practiced by New Testament churches.
- 5. Briefly give a history of baptism.

Discussion: Why is baptism important?

Assignment:

- Memory Work: Acts 2:41-42
- Read: Acts 8:26-40

The Baptism of Jesus (Lesson 10 - The History of Baptism)

- **Matthew 3:13-17**

*¹³Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him. ¹⁶And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

- **Mark 1:9-11**

⁹And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. ¹⁰And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: ¹¹and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- **Luke 3:21-22**

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

- **John 1:33-34 (from verse 29)**

²⁹The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. ³²And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Lesson 10 – Church Ordinances – Baptism (Part 1 - History of Baptism)

I. The Definition of “baptism.”

- A. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word ‘*baptizo*’ which means to dip, to plunge, or to sink beneath water by immersion.
- B. In every New Testament example, to baptize was to immerse an individual in water.

II. The Baptism by John the Baptist.

- A. In the Bible, the first mention of baptism occurred when John the Baptist came forth from the wilderness preaching repentance and baptism. This was the first time baptism was practiced.

Read Matthew 3:6 (verses 1-11) - **John the Baptist**

¹In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, ²and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying,

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make his paths straight.*

⁴And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judæa, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹and think 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 children unto Abraham. ¹⁰And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John received his authority to baptize from heaven. Read:

1. Matthew 21:25 (from verse 23 to 27) *²³And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? ²⁴And Jesus*

answered and said unto them, *I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.* ***25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.*** [The Jesus then follows with the parable about the two sons who refused / did not work in the vineyard.]

2. Mark 11:30 *27And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28and say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things? 29And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.*
3. Luke 20:4 *1And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, 2and spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority? 3And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: 4The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?*

B. John baptized Christ and all the disciples. Read:

1. Matthew 3:13-17 - **The Baptism of Jesus**
13Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
2. Acts 1:21 *21Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

III. The Baptism by Jesus Christ.

A. The account of the baptism of Jesus Christ is given in:

1. Matthew 3:13-17 ¹³Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, *Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.* Then he suffered him. **[suffer: to allow something or tolerate an action]** ¹⁶And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
2. Mark 1:9-11 ⁹And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. ¹⁰And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: ¹¹and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
3. Luke 3:21-22 ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.
4. John 1:31-34 (from verse 29) ²⁹The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. ³²And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Christ walked from Galilee to Jordan, a distance of 60 miles, to be baptized by John the Baptist. It did make a difference with Christ.

- B. There could be doubt as to whether Jesus Himself ever administered baptism. John 3:22 would seem to teach that at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus did baptize, but not long after delegated this work to the disciples. Read John 4:1-2.

1. John 3:22-23 ²²*After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judæa; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. ²³And John also was baptizing in Ænon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.*
2. John 4:1-2 ¹*When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, ²(though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)*

IV. Baptism by the Disciples.

- A. All the disciples were baptized by John the Baptist. Read Acts 1:21-22 ²¹*Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*
- B. The disciples baptized those who were saved through the ministry of Christ and themselves. Read John 4:1-2 ¹*When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, ²(though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)*

V. Baptism by the New Testament Church.

- A. Christ gave the authority to baptize in the church.

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

- B. The New Testament clearly teaches that the church baptized all those who made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
 1. Peter preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 2:38 ³⁸*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized 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.*
 2. Phillip preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 8:9-17 ⁹*But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: ¹⁰to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. ¹¹And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. ¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom*

of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they **were baptized, both men and women.**

¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when **he was baptized**, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(for as yet he was fallen upon none of them: **only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

3. Paul received baptism. Read Acts 9:18 (from verse 10) ¹⁰And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, **Ananias.** And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹And the Lord said unto him, **Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,** ¹²and hath seen in a vision a man named **Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.** ¹³Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. ¹⁵But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.** ¹⁷And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.**
4. Paul preached and practiced baptism. Read Acts 16:14-15 ¹⁴And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

VI. Baptism Today

- A. All New Testament Churches administer baptism as it was done during the time of Christ.
- B. Briefly we summarize the history of baptism:
 1. John the Baptist received instructions and authority to baptize from heaven.
 2. John the Baptist baptized Jesus and all the disciples.
 3. Christ and His disciples continued the practice of baptism.

4. Christ placed the authority to baptize in the church.
5. Christ commanded the churches to baptize the converts, and this is done by New Testament churches to this day.

Questions:

1. Give a definition of the word “baptize.”
2. Describe the first mention of baptism in the New Testament.
3. Describe the baptism of Jesus Christ.
4. Discuss baptism as practiced by New Testament churches.
5. Briefly give a history of baptism.

Discussion: Why is baptism important?

Assignment:

- Memory Work: Acts 2:41-42 ⁴¹*Then they that gladly received his word **were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

- Read: Acts 8:26-40 (**Philip and an Ethiopian**)

²⁶*And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³²The place of the scripture which he read was this,*

- *He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;*
- *And like a lamb dumb before his shearer,*
- *So opened he not his mouth:*
- *33In his humiliation his judgment was taken away:*
- *And who shall declare his generation?*
- *For his life is taken from the earth.*

³⁴And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Cæsarea.