

Lesson 11 – Church Ordinances – Baptism (Part 2 – Four Requirements of Scriptural Baptism)

I. The Proper Candidate – A Believer

- A. Baptism is to be administered to those, and only those, who have exercised and professed a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Read Acts 8:13, 2:41, 8:37
- B. This would eliminate baptism as rite to be performed on infants and unbelievers.

II. The Proper Mode – Immersion.

- A. The New Testament provides ample evidence that the only mode of baptism practiced was immersion.
 - 1. The baptism of Christ.
 - a. Matthew 3:16
 - b. Mark 1:9-10
 - 2. John used “much water” for baptism.
 - a. John 3:23
 - b. Much water eliminates the need to sprinkle or pour.
 - 3. Phillip and the eunuch of Candace of Ethiopia.
 - a. Read Acts 8:38-39
 - b. Discussion of the Candace(s) of Ethiopia (from 170 BC to 314 BC) and the eunuch of Candace (**Amantitere**) of Ethiopia [Kingdom of Kush - 284 BC to 314 AD].
 - 4. References by the apostles.
 - a. Romans 6:4
 - b. **Colossians 2:12**
- B. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to dip, plunge, or sink by immersion.

III. The Proper Motive.

- A. The command by Jesus – Matthew 28:19
- B. In baptism, the believer presents the picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as the gospel that brings salvation. Read Romans 6:1-10.

- C. Also, this scripture in Romans 6:1-10 shows in baptism, the believer pictures to the world what has happened in his heart:
- his own death to sin
 - his fellowship with Christ in His death.
 - his rising to walk in newness of life.

IV. The Proper Administrator.

- A. The authority to baptize was placed in the church by Christ. Read Matthew 28:19
- B. Only a New Testament church can administer baptism.

Questions:

1. Who is a proper candidate for baptism?
2. What is the proper mode of baptism?
3. What is the proper motive for baptism?
4. Who has the authority to baptize?

Discussion: Define “**alien baptism**” and discuss its dangers.

Assignment:

- Memory Work: Acts 8:36-37
- Read: Romans 6

Amantitere (r. c. 25-c. 41 CE): Amantitere is the queen most often identified as the Candace in Acts 8:27. It has been suggested that she may have been Jewish only based on the passage in the Bible in which her eunuch, encountered by the apostle Philip, is reading the Book of **Isaiah**. There is no evidence in Meroe (capital of Kush) itself which supports the existence of a Jewish community, but such communities did exist throughout Kush in small numbers.

The biblical passage has also been cited to prove that Amantitere ruled alone since it states her eunuch had “great authority” and was in charge of her treasury but those statements hardly prove an autonomous queen any more than the eunuch's reading of Isaiah argues for her **Judaism**. Nothing is known of her reign but physical evidence from the period shows a high degree of affluence.

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I. The Proper Candidate – A Believer

A. Baptism is to be administered to those, and only those, who have exercised and professed a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Read:

1. Acts 8:13 *¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.*
2. Acts 2:41 *⁴¹Then 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.*
3. Acts 8:37 *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.*
4. The scripture order is to believe, then be baptized. The Bible teaches that salvation is **by faith**.

B. ***This would eliminate baptism as rite to be performed on infants and unbelievers.***

II. The Proper Mode – Immersion.

A. The New Testament provides ample evidence that the only mode of baptism practiced was immersion.

1. The baptism of Christ.

- a. Matthew 3:16 ¹⁶*And 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.*
 - b. Mark 1:9-10 ⁹*And 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.*
2. John used “much water” for baptism.
- a. John 3:23 ²³*And John also was baptizing in Ænon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.*
 - b. ‘Much water’ eliminates the need to sprinkle or pour.
3. Phillip and the eunuch of Candace of Ethiopia.
- a. Read Acts 8:38-39 ³⁸*And 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.*
 - b. Discussion of the Candace(s) of Ethiopia (from 170 BC to 314 BC) and the eunuch of Candace (**Amantitere**) of Ethiopia [Kingdom of Kush - 284 BC to 314 AD].

Amantitere (r. c. 25-c. 41 CE): Amantitere is the queen most often identified as the Candace in Acts 8:27. It has been suggested that she may have been Jewish only based on the passage in the Bible in which her eunuch, encountered by the apostle Philip, is reading the Book of [Isaiah](#). There is no evidence in Meroe (capital of Kush) itself which supports the existence of a Jewish community, but such communities did exist throughout Kush in small numbers.

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4. References by the apostles.

- a. Romans 6:4 **[Complete Renewal]** *¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
- b. **Colossians 2:12** *¹²buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

[Comment: Since only a dead man can be buried, this burial in water baptism confirmed that when we were born again, our old man of sin (our sin nature) died. Burial also signifies that God has removed our sinful nature from us since the dead are always removed from the house of the living.]

- B. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to dip, plunge, or sink by immersion.

III. The Proper Motive.

- A. The command by Jesus – Matthew 28:19 ***¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***
- B. In baptism, the believer presents the picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as the gospel that brings salvation.

Read Romans 6:1-10. *¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹knowing that*

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

- C. Also, this scripture in Romans 6:1-10 shows in baptism, the believer pictures to the world what has happened in his heart:
- his own death to sin
 - his fellowship with Christ in His death.
 - his rising to walk in newness of life.

IV. The Proper Administrator.

- A. The authority to baptize was placed in the church by Christ.

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

- B. Only a New Testament church can administer baptism.

Questions:

1. Who is a proper candidate for baptism?
2. What is the proper mode of baptism?
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Discussion: Define “**alien baptism**” and discuss its dangers.

- **Alien baptism** means an unbiblical or defective baptism such as infant baptism, or someone baptized in a baptismal regeneration church.
- **Alien baptism** simply refers to the acceptance of someone of another denomination into the church membership. More specifically though when looking at their baptism and what denomination their baptism was under.
- According to an article in the *Baptist Messenger* a few years ago the Park Road Southern Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC has voted that rebaptism by immersion will no longer be required for membership in their church. At about the same time three other churches

withdrew from the same association over this matter. I know of a Baptist church in metropolitan Oklahoma City that recently received members of a Disciples of Christ church without baptizing them. **Baptists have a term for such a practice. We call it recognizing alien immersion or alien baptism. To recognize alien baptism is to accept as a member of a Baptist church any person on the basis of the baptism which he received in a church of another denomination.**

Assignment:

- Memory Work: Acts 8:36-37 *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.*
- Read: Romans 6