

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

BAPTISM

Lesson 3

Return pages 6 & 7

"Now That I Am Saved, Where Do I Start?"

Water baptism is an important step of obedience in the life of a Christian. At the beginning of this study, one must realize that water baptism is NOT essential for salvation. Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This lesson is intended to give the Bible's clear and definitive teaching on the subject so the individual understands perfectly what GOD's intention is regarding baptism.

I. WATER BAPTISM DOES NOT HAVE A PART IN OUR SALVATION

Water baptism cannot be a part of salvation since it is a work (something you do). Salvation is NOT of works. Furthermore, the Bible clearly shows that water baptism is NOT a part of the gospel.

Eph 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 Cor 1:17

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

(KJV)

II. WHY DOES GOD INSTRUCT US TO BE BAPTIZED?

A. Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone who has received eternal life can be baptized; it takes no special talents or efforts. Matthew 28:19, 20

B. Jesus sets the example Himself by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. Jesus was baptized - Matthew 3:15, Jesus began His ministry Matthew 4:17 some other verses about following His example - 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6;

C. Jesus Christ was baptized in water NOT to be saved but to show us what we should do to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15,16) in our own individual walk with God. Obeying the command of being baptized in water continues us on a path where God can be "well pleased" (Matthew 3:17) with us. Frankly, to be a righteous Christian that pleases God, you need to be baptized in water.

III. WATER BAPTISM HAS ONE CONDITION

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You must be saved before you can be scripturally baptized.
Some Bible characters who submitted to baptism after salvation.

A. The Ethiopian eunuch. *Acts 8:36-39 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And 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? And Phillip 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. 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.*

B. The Apostle Paul. Acts 9:18

Acts 9:18

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

(KJV)

C. The Philippian jailer and his household. Acts 16: 25-33.

IV. WATER BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION

The word "baptize" means to immerse or to put into. Therefore, water baptism is placing a person into the water. Therefore, the baptism of babies cannot be scriptural. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled because no one can be buried by sprinkling dirt on them.

Matthew 3:16 and Acts 8:38,39 make it clear that water baptism is always by going into the water and coming up out of the water.

To refuse water baptism by immersion is to destroy the importance of the next point.

V. WATER BAPTISM IS A PICTURE AND A TESTIMONY

Romans 6:1-7 shows that water baptism is a picture, symbol, or figure of how Christ died and was buried (going under the water), and how He rose from the dead (coming up out of the water).

As seen previously, baptism is a picture of death, burial and resurrection.

Therefore, water baptism is an identification with and testimony of one's conversion and salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. See also Colossians 2:12.

Col 2:12

12 Buried 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.

VI. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

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- A. It is a public testimony of the new convert's identification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial and resurrection, which is how he was saved. It identifies him with the LORD JESUS CHRIST
- B. By the act of Baptism the new believer is identifying with THE LORD JESUS CHRIST to fulfill all righteousness Matt.3:15
- C. By the act of Baptism the New Believer is showing to GOD that he is ready to begin his ministry in spreading the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

VII. WHAT ABOUT THE FOLLOWING VERSE?

Acts 2:38

The scripture says here "Repent and be baptized", well I guess we don't have to believe, all we have to do is turn over a new leaf (repent) and get wet and we can get the Holy Ghost. You say of course not, well, I'm going to take this scripture and base my entire faith on this verse, why not? Look at a verse with me, keep in mind the verse above, but just see how confusing it gets if you base your religion on water baptism. Let's look at the verses: Acts 8:15-16

VIII. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:36-39. In verse 36, the eunuch is asked "...what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Phillip then answers with the condition of baptism in verse 37, "...If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest." Then the eunuch's response sealed the matter, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of GOD".
- B. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation found in Romans 10:9-10.
- A. Repentance of sin
- B. Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- C. Confession that He is Lord and Saviour.
- Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation include:
 1. Acts 8:12
 2. Acts 18:8

IX. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BE BAPTIZED?

- A. It is NOT essential for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear a man is saved by grace through faith without works of any kind.
- B. It is essential for obedience, spiritual growth; Matthew 28:19-20 ("the great commission") proves its importance. Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission.

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C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, they must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in

the first point, he hinders his spiritual growth. Matthew 3:13-15

X. BASIC QUESTIONS

A. Where should I be baptized?

Since Baptism is a public confession of your faith in JESUS CHRIST. It should be done publicly, before the church, or sometimes even a lake or apartment pool.

B. When should I be baptized?

As soon as possible following your salvation.

XI. SUMMARY

In order for a scriptural baptism to take place, there must be:

A. A scriptural subject: a born again believer in Jesus Christ.

B. A scriptural mode: baptism by immersion.

C. A scriptural motive: NOT in order to obtain salvation, but to give testimony that the candidate has been saved and that he is ready to begin serving GOD.

D. A Scriptural Authority: In obedience to GOD's Word.

XII. ADDENDUM

Because of many present-day heresies regarding water baptism, the following may be of help to those that have been taught that water baptism is necessary for salvation. There are 7 declared baptisms in the word of God. The word "baptize" simply means to "put into" and has nothing to do with water in itself. The "doctrine of baptisms" (Hebrews 6:2) is seen below. Most of the false teaching on baptism does not discern the fact that there are many different baptisms. Before a verse on baptism can be understood, you must ask yourself WHICH BAPTISM is the verse speaking about.

1. Baptism of the Jews-John 2:6; Acts 22:12-16; Hebrews 9:10;
Numbers 19:7-9

2. Baptism of Repentance- Mark 1:4, Acts 2:38

3. Baptism of the SAVED in water- Acts 8:36-38

4. Baptism of Moses-1 Corinthians 10:1 & 2

5. Baptism of Fire- Matthew 3:11

6. Baptism of Death- Matthew 20:22; Luke 12:50; Romans 6:3-5

7. Baptism of the Holy Ghost-1 Corinthians 12:13

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the saving baptism of I Peter 3:20,21. This text declares that the baptism that has to do with salvation has **nothing** to do with water which is seen in the phrase "not the putting away of the filth of the

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flesh", which water does. This baptism has to do with an "answer". That is, when one says "yes" to Jesus for salvation from his "conscience" or heart

(Romans 10:10), he is placed into (which is the meaning of the word baptize) the body of Christ by the Holy Ghost...he is put into the family of God. This is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5. It is the "one" that counts. The Holy Spirit does this baptizing and NOT a man. It is God's work, not man's. It is into Christ, not into water.

notes

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Baptism

Lesson 3

Name _____

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized.
2. In Matthew 3:13-15 why was Jesus baptized?
3. List Three men who were baptized after salvation in the New Testament.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. What are the purposes for Baptism found in Romans 6:3-4 ?
 - A.
 - B.
5. In Acts 8:36-37, The Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements, before he could be baptized. What were those two requirements?
 - A.
 - B.
6. How do we know that the Ethiopian eunuch and JESUS were not baptized by sprinkling of water ?
 - A.
 - B.
7. Baptism by complete immersion in water is a picture of what?

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8. Baptism is the first _____
There is only one condition you must meet in order to be baptized and that is _____. If a Christian refuses baptism they will _____ growth.
9. Is Baptism essential for salvation? Give a scripture reference to prove your point.
10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson:
11. What are the four things necessary for scriptural Baptism to take place:
- A. A Scriptural _____
- B. A Scriptural _____
- C. A Scriptural _____
- D. A Scriptural _____



Scripture memorization Key passages you must be familiar with; Matt. 3:13,14,15,16,17; Acts 8: 36,37,38,39; Romans 6: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
(Write these out on a separate piece of paper)

True/False

- Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
- The Mode or method of baptism is not important to GOD; one way is just as good to another.
- Babies should be baptized into GOD's family or into the Church.
- GOD commands the believer to be baptized into the local church for membership purposes.