

### **XIII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**

#### **LESSON THIRTEEN**

#### **... ABOUT BAPTISMS - WATER BAPTISM**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

"Baptisms" is the third and fourth of the seven FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, Hebrews 6:1,2.

According to Hebrews 6:2, one of these "principle" truths is the "doctrine of Baptisms" (plural), therefore indicating more than one baptism, or distinct (in purpose, application and time) phases of the one baptism. Eph. 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism,"

These distinct phases/baptisms of the one Baptism are:

1. Baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ is one of these distinct baptisms. This "baptism" is synonymous with the salvation, new birth experience which occurs when one through faith receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, as discussed in Lesson 7.

1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; we have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

2. Water baptism is another of the three baptisms referred to in Hebrews 6:2. New Testament Christians considered water baptism an important part of their profession of faith. In fact, baptism was the normal way in which new believers gave public confession of their faith in Christ. No Christian in the early church would have omitted this step of obedience.

Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

3. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is another baptism experienced by New Testament believers. The apostles preached it as a baptism separate from the baptism into the body of Christ and water baptism. Its primary purpose is to provide power for the Christian walk, for a more effective witness and a greater understanding of God's Word."

Matthew 3:11, I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worth to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

In this lesson we are going to discuss "Water Baptism".

#### **I. WATER BAPTISM AS OBEDIENCE TO FAITH**

Faith in the previous lesson was described as an attitude of believing what God says, and then obeying Him by acting upon it. For the New Testament Christian, faith always has a natural, corresponding response.

James 2:18, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."

Water baptism is such an act of obedience for every believer who has repented of his sins and confessed faith in Jesus Christ. What do the following Scriptures suggest as reasons for water baptism?

Matthew 3:13-15

Acts 2:38

1 Peter 3:21

Luke 3:21-22

**Conclusions:** We would note from the above Scriptures that being "water baptized", (1) is the right thing to do, (2) cleanses of an accusing conscience, and (3) opens heaven for the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

## II. WATER BAPTISM AS A REMINDER

### A. Burial of the "old Man"

According to Ephesians 2:1-5, man, because of his sin nature (old man) is what?

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17 when one is in Christ Jesus (born-again) what takes place?

According to Romans 6:4-6 what reality does water baptism picture and affirm?

How does water baptism relate to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection?

**Conclusions:** We would note and emphasize once again that when one is born-again he is in Christ Jesus and that the old man/sin man/sin nature is past away.

Water baptism pictures this death and burial/passing away of the old sin man/nature in the process of the new birth and the resurrection to new life and therefore, serves as a reminder (1) of what the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus accomplished for us; (2) of who we are in Christ Jesus, as a result of our new birth.

### B. To walk in the newness of life

In Romans 6:1-16 it becomes clear that God does not intend for His children to continue in sin. Knowing what water baptism pictures and that you have been obedient to the faith in submitting to baptism enables you to separate yourself from the ways of "old man" who is dead and buried, and to walk in the newness of life.

According to Romans 6:1-16 there are three steps in this transformation from a life dominated by sin to a life of righteousness before God. What are they:

**Verse 4-6**

**Verse 9-11**

**Verse 13-16**

**Conclusions:** (1) knowing this: that our old man is dead and buried with Christ; (2) knowing this: the resurrection of Christ freed Him from death and since in the new birth we are raised together with Him, we, therefore, are to take into account that we are dead to sin; and (3) know this: the choice is ours, to serve: (a) sin unto death or (b) righteousness unto life.

**RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH**

**1. Do you believe that water baptism is an essential part of a successful Christian life?**

**YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_**

**2. Since you accepted Jesus as your Savior have you been baptized in water?**

**YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_**

**3. When baptized, did you understand that the act of baptism was not only obedience, but also pictured what happened to the old you?**

**YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_**