
FOUNDATION STONE 3

INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WASHINGS **OR** **DOCTRINES OF BAPTISMS**

We will start with water baptism, which is one of the most misunderstood Christian experiences in the church today. There are those who are divided on which is the proper way one should be baptized (sprinkling, immersion, as an infant, etc.) and the correct formula, such as in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit verses in the name of the Lord Jesus. Others believe that it is not even necessary to be baptized at all. However, the bible makes it very clear as to what the Word requires of each of us. If Christians would search the Word of God rather than relying on their own ideas or religious traditions, there would be no misunderstandings. We see that in **Ephesians 4:5-6** it says *“one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”*

We need to understand that as long as the enemy (Satan) keeps the church divided on such issues, the church will never become a real threat to him. It is time for all of God’s people to seek His truth concerning all of God’s word.

CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD

II Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

As we continue with God’s word dealing with water baptism, we want to open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit and the scriptures in order to receive the truth about water baptism.

WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

The first thing we want to find out is the meaning of water baptism. We find that the Greek word used to define water baptism is **“baptizo”** which means to immerse, dip under, or submerge. In other words the believer cannot simply be sprinkled. They must be immersed according to the word of God. It is therefore in the waters of baptism by faith in the word and the working of the Holy Spirit; that the believer is baptized into Jesus, and experiences the **“death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness”**.

Mark 16:16

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.” (Remember the timing; this is after He rose from the grave. This is important because many will refer to the thief on the cross not being baptized. At that time, baptism was not required as a part of one’s salvation. The thief, as well as all the other Old Testament saints was still under the old covenant. They were reserved in paradise until the death and resurrection of Jesus! That is why Jesus was able to say to the thief; **TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.** Paradise was the last stop Jesus made before ascending into heaven.

Ephesians 4:8-10

Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He that ascended far above all the heavens so that He might fill all things.)

Hebrews 9:15-18 (Christ’s fulfillment of the promise)

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is

valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

Romans 6:4- 5

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. “For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.”

WHERE DID CHRISTIAN BAPTISM ORIGINATE?

We find that Christian baptism was first recorded in the New Testament beginning with the baptism of John. John called for the Jews who were under the law of the old covenant to repent of their sins.

Mark 1:4-5

“John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

However, we do find a type of baptism in the book of **Exodus chapter 14**. This illustrates how God’s people were delivered through the waters just as we will see later in the study how we too are set free in the water of baptism.

WHY WAS JOHN’S BAPTISM NECESSARY?

Luke 7:28-30

“I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John; yet he who is the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”
When all the people and the tax-gatherers heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the

Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

BOTH JESUS AND JOHN PREACHED THE SAME MESSAGE.

Compare Matthew 3:2 & 4:17

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As we study all of God's word, we will find that both repentance and baptism are required for entering the kingdom of heaven.

John required the people to demonstrate their repentance just like Jesus requires us today to demonstrate our repentance as we are baptized into Christ.

Luke 3:8-9

"Therefore bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, we have Abraham for our father, (remember we spoke of having our own ideas and religious traditions) for I say to you that God is able from these stones to rise up children to Abraham. Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

There was an absolute necessity for John's baptism. Without it the Jews could not have perceived the coming of Jesus as the Christ, just as we can not see the kingdom without being born again of water and the Spirit.

(John 3:1-8)

John 1:31

"And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

Remember the Jews knew that the priests had to be cleansed with the washing of water before they could minister before the Lord. So water baptism was a way that they recognized as a washing or purification.

Exodus 29:4

“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of the meeting and wash them with water.”

Scripture tells us that when Jesus was baptized, He himself did not need to be cleansed. He was fulfilling all righteousness. As our high priest and first born among many brethren, was being cleansed in preparation for His office as prophet, priest, and king as a pattern for each one of us to follow as new testament priests. Although Jesus did not baptize, His disciples did. Some may question why Jesus did not baptize since we put so much emphasis on being baptized. The answer is this; No one could be baptized into Christ until after the death and resurrection of Jesus as we will see later in the study.

John 4:1-2

“Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were),”

JESUS ALSO TAUGHT ABOUT WATER BAPTISM.

He was the bridge between the new covenant baptism and John’s baptism. Jesus commanded us to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 16:15-16

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

THE APOSTLES TAUGHT ABOUT WATER BAPTISM

The apostles also commanded us to be baptized, just as Jesus commanded us.

Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, brethren, what shall we do? Peter said to them, “repent and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:48

And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

As believers, rightly dividing the word of God, we find that baptism is not a choice, but a commandment given us. Water baptism is necessary as a part of our born-again experience. The bible clearly teaches us that there are three that bear witness to a completed work of salvation. **(1) “Repentance” the blood of Jesus, (2) “water baptism” the water, (3) “the baptism of the Holy Spirit” the Spirit. The three testify of our salvation.**

Hebrews 9:22

And according to the law one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of the blood there is no forgiveness. (The blood)

Acts 2:41

So then, those who had received his word were baptized.

John 3:1-7

READ

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration (water) and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

I Peter 3:18-21

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the

Spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah: during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:6-8

*This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: **the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.***

IN WHO'S NAME DID THE APOSTLES BAPTIZE?

The question is this. Does it really matter? When questioned about the proper procedure when baptizing, most churches just lay the matter aside. They say it really does not matter. You are making a big issue out of nothing. It seems to me as a Christian believer we are to rightly divide the word of truth, not just determine that it does not matter. "All" of the apostles and "all" those who baptized, determined that it did matter. It would seem logical that if it did not matter, that at least one would have baptized differently. What do you think? Let's see what the word teaches.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus makes it very clear to the disciples. Does he not? Then why did they not follow his command? Did they misunderstand? Were they simply disobedient? Or did they know what He meant when they baptized everyone in the name of the Lord Jesus. If it was not important, at least one would have baptized someone in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38a

“Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 8:16

For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 10:48

And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:5

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

Now that the word established the importance of baptizing in Jesus’ name, let’s see why. We know that when Adam sinned, mankind was separated from God and his likeness and the penalty of death. We needed to be reconciled back to God. The shed blood of Jesus on Calvary’s cross brought about our justification by our repentance (applying the blood). It was also deemed necessary for us to die to our sins in order to be renewed to our covenant with God (water baptism).

WHY DO WE BAPTIZE IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

Romans 6:3-4

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Read verses 5 thru 14)

Colossians 2:9-13

for in Him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Galatians 3:27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

The above scriptures tell us why it is so important to be baptized in Jesus' name. He is the one who cuts away the old man and it is in Him that we are raised a new creation. Do not allow anyone to dismiss the proper manner in which you need to be baptized. Do not add to or take away from the word of God. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **“every word”** of God. The Father made provision for our salvation through His Son and the working of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

WATER BAPTISM AND THE CHURCH

As believers and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must understand the work that is accomplished in the waters of baptism. We are not becoming members of a particular denomination or even expressing our commitment to a new and living way. We are, however, entering into a covenant with God. After repentance, we enter into the waters of baptism and then receive the Holy Spirit which is the sealing of our born-again experience. When Peter spoke on the day of Pentecost, it brought forth the

birth of the church and the birth of Christian baptism. The following scriptures that he preached on that day are the foundation of the New Testament church today.

Acts 2:36-39, 41

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.” So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM!

In the following verses of scripture we will see what baptism, covenant and circumcision have in common with our relationship with God. But, before we continue let's define the words.

Covenant- a promise or undertaking, human or divine on the part of God alone or it may be mutual between two parties.

Circumcision-It means the cutting around.

Both of these words are used in the Old and New Testament in the relationship between God and man. First God instituted a covenant of circumcision with Abraham.

Genesis 17:10-11

“This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

Remember that Abraham walked with God and was called a friend of God. However, even though he was a friend of God, he was required to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant between God and himself.

Genesis 17:14

*“But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; **he has broken my covenant.**”*

Centuries later we find that circumcision was still required as a sign. However, as God revealed through Moses there was a greater inner need. Just as John’s baptism pointed to Jesus’ baptism, so did Abraham’s outward circumcision of the foreskin point to the inward circumcision of the heart.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 16

*“and now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? **“Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more.”***

We see that God required them to love Him with all of their heart and soul, yet this was one thing they were unable to do. What was their answer? What is our answer? How can we love God in the same manner?

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

*“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all the nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I COMMAND YOU today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you”.
“If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will bring you back. “The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your*

fathers.” “Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”

Jeremiah 4:4

*“Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your heart,” (read the following scriptures to understand the necessity of a circumcised heart: **9:23-26, 24:5-7, 31:31-34**).*

EZEKIEL 11:19-20

*“And I will give them one heart, and put a new Spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.” **Ezekiel 36:26-27** repeats these same verses.*

Ezekiel 44:9

Thus says the Lord God, “no foreigner uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary.”

We find that even in the old covenant it was necessary to have a circumcised heart in order to enter the Kingdom of God. The same is true under the new covenant in Jesus Christ as we are about to find out. We see the work of God for the first time when he births a people of one heart and one mind towards Himself and also between each other.

Acts 2:41-47

So then those who had received the word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe, and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and

having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32a

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul.

Later on in Paul's ministry it was revealed through the Holy Spirit and Old Testament prophecies that God indeed circumcised the hearts of His people as did Jesus in the New Testament.

Colossians 2:11, 12

and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.

WHAT DOES CIRCUMCISION OF HEART MEAN TO THE BELEIVER?

Romans 6:1-18

Read these verses

Colossians 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices. And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created Him.

When a believer is baptized according to the word of God and not according to traditions of man or religious doctrines, Jesus works a marvelous work in our heart. We die to our sins and the old Adamic nature is removed and we clothe ourselves in the nature of Jesus Christ.

The old wineskins are shed and we put on new wineskins in order to contain the work that He is doing in our life. Sin no longer has dominion in our life. We are a new creation wrought at the hands of Jesus. We see that it is in the waters of baptism that we change from man's dominion to God's dominion. This work of circumcision that takes place in the waters of baptism by faith in Jesus Christ brings us into a covenant relationship with God.

May the Holy Spirit birth this study in our spirit! (Hosea 4:6)
My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge.