

Chapter 2

Baptism in Water

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

INTRODUCTION

We are not yet fully aware of the importance to us of water baptism ordained by the Lord.

Traditionally it has been taught that Baptism is a fact of obedience to the Lord and although this is a truth, it is not the complete truth because it does not manifest anything more than a part of the spiritual blessing that comes with the fact of being baptized. Everyone who has received Jesus as savior must immediately seek the waters of baptism, even if they do not know what it is exactly and what it entails, that is why it is "a step of obedience" we just have to comply with it, and then we can study and ask about baptism.

I- WHAT IS BAPTISM IN WATER?

It is the act by which a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ descends into the water accompanied by a disciple of the Lord, who immerses him totally in the name of Jesus, or in the name of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We must clarify that it is not about special formulas or word games as shown in the scriptures. There are those who say that if you are not baptized in the name of Jesus, then you are not baptized, or that if you are not baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, then the baptism is not valid, and both assertions are right and wrong.

John 4: 1 When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

John 4: 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples),

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 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 8:16 For the Holy Spirit had not yet descended on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus.

An example can be read in Acts 8: 36-39.

II- WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

The eunuch's question to Philip was: Here is water, what prevents me from being baptized?

Philip Said: If you believe with all your heart, you may well (Acts 8: 36-37).

In other words, to be baptized, the only condition is to have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, as our only and sufficient Savior.

The Lord said to his apostles: **He who believes and is baptized will be saved** (Mark 16:16), which clearly defines that baptism is only for those who, with simple faith, have approached the Lord Jesus Christ to obtain their salvation.

However, prior to the step of believing, it is necessary to have experienced a true repentance, which is why Peter says: Repent and be baptized, each one of you.

Based on the above, let us note that it is not necessary to receive extensive courses about what baptism is there are sectarian groups that do not baptize believers until they have finished complete courses about baptism, in the most serious cases some of these courses last up to six months.

III- WHAT DOES BAPTISM IN WATER MEAN?

Christ died for us, was buried, and rose gloriously on the third day. Going down into the water is a visible symbol that our old sinful life is dead.

KJV 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for all time for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God, being truly dead in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

Water baptism is our full identification with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our old man was crucified with Him, so that the body of sin would be destroyed.

KJV Romans 6: 6 And we know that our old man was crucified with him, so that the body of sin may be destroyed, so that we are no longer slaves of sin.

It is necessary to consider that just as between the crucifixion and the death of the Lord there was a time lapse, so also from the moment in which our old man was crucified until the moment in which we have actually died, a time will also have to pass during which the Lord will be perfecting the work that He started in us.

The burial of the believer takes place symbolically at baptism.

Romans 6: 4 For by baptism we were buried together with him in death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12 You were buried together with him in baptism, in which you were also raised together with him, through faith in the power of God that raised him from the dead.

And by being raised from the water, faith in the resurrection and the conviction of a new life are being expressed, thanks to the Lord's victory. If we were planted together with Christ in the likeness of his death, so will we also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Romans 6: 5 For if we have been united to him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united to him in the likeness of his resurrection,

The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead and death has no more dominion over Him.

Romans 6: 9 knowing that Christ, having risen from the dead, will not die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

In the same way, we must consider ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:11 So you also, consider that you are dead to sin, but that you are alive to God in Christ Jesus.

And present us to God alive from the dead because sin no longer rules over us, since we are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:13 neither present the members of your body to sin as instruments of iniquity but present yourselves to God as living from the dead, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

Romans 6:14 Because sin will not have dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Summarizing the above, we can conclude that: water baptism is the acceptance of the redemptive work of Christ, and the total identification with the Lord in his death, burial, and resurrection.

IV-WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

We must do it as a fact of obedience to the redemptive will of the Lord since it is ordained by Christ himself. Jesus Christ instituted baptism and commissioned his disciples to baptize those who became his disciples in the same way (Matthew 28:19), and whoever is baptized pleases God, because he obeys his word.

The Lord told Nicodemus that whoever is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God, that is, baptism in water constitutes a very important element as a requirement so that we can enjoy the wonders that God has prepared for us in his kingdom (John 3: 5).

Peter makes a comparison between the salvation from the judgments of God that eight people experience in the flood, passing through water and the salvation from the slavery of sin that we have obtained through baptism in water, through the interior knowledge of the good to do and evil to avoid (1 Peter 3: 20-21). In other words, without altering its message, water baptism allows us to obtain a response from a good conscience towards God, thanks to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:20 who were once disobedient when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through the water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this figure, now, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, saves you, not by removing impurities from the flesh, but as an appeal of a good conscience towards God.

V-WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL METHOD OF WATER BAPTISM?

G907 - bap-tid'-zo Derivation of G911; do immersion or submerged (i.e. totally wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ablution (wine and water with which purification and washing are done) ceremonial, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian Baptism.

G911 - bap'-to A primary verb; dip, this is: completely cover with a fluid; in the New Testament only in a qualified or specific sense, that is, literally.

According to the original Greek text, baptism must be carried out by immersion in water, that is, completely submerged in water, following the truth in **"Buried with Christ" (Romans 6:4)**. Submerged in water we are buried as a figure of our death in Christ. It is not by spraying (splashing), or by wetting the head or feet, the real method is submerged.

Acts 8:38 And he ordered the car to stop. Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. And the eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his way rejoicing.

Matthew 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming on him.

The formula of baptism is that ordered by our Lord Jesus Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit during the development of the church.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 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 8:16 For the Holy Spirit had not yet descended on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

VI-WHEN SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

There is no stipulated time or age in the Bible between conversion and baptism, but there are many examples of people who were baptized immediately after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, so we believe it should be done immediately after believing in Christ.

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and about three thousand people were added that day.

1. The eunuch being baptized immediately after believing (Acts 8: 35-38).
2. The Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16: 23-33).
3. Paul's healing and baptism (Acts 9: 17-18)
4. The Conversion and Baptism of Cornelius and his house (Acts 10: 47-48).
5. The baptism of Lydia and those of her household (Acts 16: 14-15).

VI- WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN'S BAPTISM?

With regard to baptizing children, it can be established that because it is a Fact in which the person being baptized is fully identifying himself with the death and resurrection of the Lord, he must be fully aware of what he is doing; Therefore, it is also necessary for them to have certain maturity and criteria to make decisions, it is understood that the decision to go down to the waters of baptism does not depend on the parents but on the child.

The age, then, will depend on the reasoning capacity of the child, this reasoning can be weighed based on the conscience (not necessarily experience) that the child has about sin, repentance, the need for salvation, and the knowledge and understanding of the Baptism and how it is patented in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not talking about deep knowledge, or subjecting children (or adults) to intensive courses about baptism, but we are talking about being able to know if the child is really located in the event, its meaning, and its effects.

With regards to children who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, it is necessary before proceeding to baptize them in water, that a servant of the Lord with ministerial criteria, confirm whether what the child has received has really been of the Holy Spirit, or it is an imitation?

It is important that before baptism the child recognize the need for salvation, proceed to repentance, make a public confession, and finally descend into the waters of baptism.

We can use as a figure, the fact that before Israel left Egypt guided by Moses (Exodus 10: 9-24), Pharaoh (the Devil) strongly opposed it, but no one left Egypt until the children were included, it also says the scripture that all (big and small) were baptized in the cloud and in the sea (1 Corinthians 10:1-2), with which we understand that children are not excluded from this step of obedience, as long as they understand that they have left the world (Egypt) to the promised land (inherit the Kingdom of God).

1 Corinthians 10: 1 I do not want you to ignore, brothers, that all our parents were under the cloud, and that they all crossed the sea.

1 Corinthians 10: 2 All in Moses were baptized in the cloud and in the sea.

Exodus 10: 9 Moses answered: — We must go with our children and with our elders, with our sons and with our daughters; we are to go with our flocks and herds, because we will have a feast of the Lord.

Exodus 10:10 And he (Pharaoh) said to them: "The Lord be with you, if I let you and your children go!" See how your bad intentions are in plain sight!

Exodus 10:11 It will not be so! Go ye men and serve the Lord, for this is what you have asked. And they drove them out of Pharaoh's presence.

Exodus 10:16 Then Pharaoh hastily summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you."

Exodus 10:24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go and serve the Lord." Let your children also go with you. Only let your sheep and your cows be left.

Finally we must understand that a child cannot sin unless there is evil in his heart, and evil does not come intrinsically in the human being at birth, it is acquired in the world when one begins to walk in it, so our task is save and prepare children so that when the time comes, they know that they are in need of repentance and salvation, and once they have made their choice for Christ, only then will they be ready for baptism. As we said before, there are no chronological ages, because there are children who are 4 or 5 years old and their hearts are full of evil, while there are others who even reach 10 years and their hearts are still innocent.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Baptism in water is a Fact of obedience to the Lord, in which a direct ministration from God to our soul is received
2. Baptism in water is essential to be able to resurrect, in the case of those who have to sleep (die physically), while waiting for the parousia.
3. Baptism in water is essential to be able to enter (inherit) the Kingdom of God.
4. The only necessary condition to be baptized is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, with all your heart.
5. Water baptism is the acceptance of the Lord's redemptive work in us, and our total identification with Him in his death, burial, and resurrection.



NOTES:

