

Baptism**Objectives:**

1. A Biblical understanding of baptism.
2. Timely obedience to the command to be baptized.

Materials

- Baptism* packet
- Baptism* by Herschel Martindale.

Tasks:*During the Meeting:*

- Discuss the *Settled* teaching.
- Review 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- Go through the *Baptism* packet.

Homework:

- Continue to spend time reading the Bible and praying each day.
- Listen to the *Baptism* teaching before the next meeting.
- Memorize John 14:21 before the next meeting.

Baptism**WHO?****1. Who should be baptized?**

A. What is the first thing that Jesus commands to be done to those who have become his disciples? Read Matthew 28:19

B. Who did the apostles baptize? Read Acts 2:41

C. In Acts 10:47-48 who did Peter say should be baptized?

D. Referring to these people who had just become true Christians, Peter:

- asked them to be baptized
- suggested that maybe they should be baptized
- left it open to opinion
- commanded them to be baptized

2. Who should baptize?

A. Is Matthew 28:19 a command only to be baptized, or is it also a command to baptize others?

B. According to Matthew 28:19, who can baptize?

- only a minister or priest
- only older believers
- any believer who wants to obey Matthew 28:19

Baptism

WHEN?

1. How soon after they believed were the following people baptized?

A. 3,000 people. Acts 2:41

B. Ethiopian official. Acts 8:35-38

C. Paul. Acts 9:17-19

D. Philippian jailer. Acts 16:32-33

2. Were any of these people baptized before they personally believed in Christ?

3. There is no command or example anywhere in the Bible for the baptizing of babies.

A. How can we know that baptizing a baby will not help save his soul?
Read Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9

B. Today, there are many traditions (teachings of men) that have been added to what the Bible teaches. Infant baptism is a tradition that arose long after the death of Christ.

1. What did Jesus say to look out for concerning the traditions of men? Mark 7:6-9

2. What does God want us to learn? 1 Corinthians 4:6

Baptism

HOW?

1. Was Jesus baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling? Mark 1:9-10

2. In Acts 8:38-39, in what way was the Ethiopian official baptized?

The meaning of the word baptism (Greek: *baptizo*) is to dip or immerse. In the New Testament times the Greek people frequently used the word to refer to "baptizing" their clothes in dye or "baptizing" a cup in dishwater. The meaning of the word shows that baptism should be by full immersion.

WHERE?

1. Where was the Ethiopian official baptized? Acts 8:26, 36-38

2. Where did John the Baptist baptize?

A. Matthew 3:5-6 _____

B. John 3:23 _____

Does baptism have to take place in a church building or baptismal fount?

A person can be baptized any place where there is enough water.

Baptism**WHY?****1. Being baptized does not help obtain eternal salvation.**

A. In Romans 1:16, what is God's power to save us?

B. Is baptism a part of the gospel? 1 Corinthians 1:17

C. Would you consider baptism to be a righteous or unrighteous deed?

D. Are we saved by any works of righteousness which we do? Titus 3:5

E. The next two questions refer to Acts 16:31.

1. What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer when the jailer asked what he needed to do to be saved?

- believe in Christ and keep all the commandments
- believe in Christ and be baptized
- believe in Christ

2. When asked such an important question, do you think that Paul would have left out anything necessary to be saved?

2. Water baptism is a symbol of a believer's spiritual baptism (placing) into Christ.

Since we have been spiritually placed (baptized) into Christ, what two events in Christ's life have also happened to us? Colossians 2:12

a. _____

b. _____

A believer going under the water symbolizes that his old life is dead and buried with Christ; coming up out of the water symbolizes that he has been raised to new life.

Baptism

3. Baptism is a public testimony identifying a believer with Christ. In New Testament times, slaves were often baptized after they were sold. This showed the community that the slave now belonged to a new master. In the same way, a believer is declaring to everyone that he now belongs to Christ by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:48). *What effect do you think the public baptism of 3,000 believers in one day had on the city of Jerusalem? Acts 2:41*

4. One reason to be baptized after we receive Christ is simply that Jesus commands it.

A. What will happen to the person who hears God’s commandment and doesn’t do it?

1. James 1:22 _____

2. Matthew 7:26-27 _____

B. What will happen to the person who hears God’s commandment and does it?

1. Matthew 7:24-25 _____

2. John 13:17 _____

2. John 14:21 _____

Questions for thought:

1. For baptism to be Biblical, when should it be done?

2. For baptism to be Biblical, how should it be done?

3. According to the Bible, should a Christian put off being baptized?

4. Why should a Christian be baptized?

5. In light of the previous questions, what steps do you personally need to take?
