

Overview:

Baptism is one of two symbols Jesus left with us, the other being the Lord's Supper. Obeying the Lord in baptism is a wonderful blessing we should emphasize as soon as someone is saved. Although baptism is very simple, the symbol has been distorted and confused through sprinkling of babies and teaching baptism is necessary for salvation.

Outline

I. When should believers be baptized?

- A. Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3)
- B. Jesus baptized others. (John 4:1)
- C. Jesus commanded it (Matthew 28:19)
- D. Occurred at Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
- E. For those who received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:47,48)

2. Colossians 2:12 "buried . . . raised"
3. 1 Peter 3:21,22 "saves us"
4. 1 Corinthians 12:12,13 "baptism of the Holy Spirit"

II. Any baptized believer can baptize another.

- A. Anyone to whom the Great Commission applies (Matthew 28:19)
- B. Not an exclusive duty of pastors or priests (1 Corinthians 1:14-17)
- C. All believers are priests. (1 Peter 2:9)

VII. What is baptism for the dead?

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:29 refers to those who were saved and baptized **because** of the testimony of loved ones who were martyred. Because of their new faith in Christ, they fully expected to see their loved ones again. This was futile if there's no resurrection.
- B. Mormon teaching: "Help grandma go to Heaven!"
- C. Danger of building elaborate doctrines on obscure verses.

III. Baptism is the first step of obedience after being saved.

- 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)
- E. No verses teach baby baptism

IV. Baptism means to be completely immersed under water.

- A. "up out of the water" (Mark 1:9,10)
- B. "Went down into the water" (Acts 8:38,39)
- C. Greek word "baptizo" means "to dip or immerse"
- D. "in the river" (Matthew 3:5,6; John 3:23)

V. Baptism does not help us obtain salvation.

- A. Baptism is not a part of the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:17)
- B. Our righteous acts of obedience do not save us. (Titus 3:5)
- C. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. (Acts 16:31)
- D. Heart, mouth (Romans 10:9,10)

VI. Why should believers be baptized?

- A. Jesus commanded it. (Matthew 28:19)
- B. It's a public testimony of our identity in Christ.
 1. Acts 10:48 "in the name of Jesus"
 2. Matthew 10:32 "before men"
- C. It's a picture that because Jesus died and rose again we are a new person. Our old self died with Christ and is gone.
 1. Romans 6:1-6 "buried"

Supporting Material:

Verses:

John 4:1

1 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John,

Matthew 28:19

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:41

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

1 Corinthians 1:14-17

14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Acts 2:41

those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:35-38

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

37 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 9:17-19

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Acts 16:32-33

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Mark 1:9-10

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Matthew 3:5-6

5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John 3:23

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Acts 16:31

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household."

Romans 10:9-10

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Matthew 10:32

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Romans 6:1-6

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Colossians 2:12

having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of god, who raised him from the dead.

1 Peter 3:21-22

21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand-with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 15:29

Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

References:

Building Convictions -- Baptism. Herschel Martindale, SVCC Tape Library.

The Anabaptist Story, William Estep. Eerdmans Pub. Co. 1975.