

Bible Study Outline: Baptism

I. Meaning of baptism

- a. from bapto, “to dip”; “consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence.”
The verb form “was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment...” (*Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words*)

II. Kinds of baptism

- a. Baptism of John (Matthew 3:1-12)
 - i. Connected with repentance
 - ii. Preparatory to the coming of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:4)
- b. Jesus’ Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - i. Jesus identified Himself with those godly Israelites who were coming to be baptized by John and symbolized the way in which He would fulfill the righteous claims of God against man’s sin. He would be immersed in the judgment of God and then raised from the dead, thus satisfying the demands of divine justice (*Believer’s Bible Commentary, William MacDonald*)
 - ii. See also Luke 12:50.
- c. Baptism with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:1-4)
 - i. A one-time or recurring event?
 1. Acts 1:5, Acts 2:17-21 seem to indicate a one-time event
 2. Acts 11:15 may be the full completion of what happened at Pentecost, showing the Gentiles are brought in.
 3. Upon believing, we come into the good of that baptism (Eph. 1:13, Romans 8:9)
- d. Baptism into the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:13)
- e. Believers’ Baptism (See below)

III. Believers’ Baptism

- a. Always done after, and as a result of, faith in the gospel message (Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:47)
- b. By immersion (Acts 8:38)
- c. Difficult passages
 - i. Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16 – Does baptism save?
 1. In Acts 10:47, the Holy Spirit was received before baptism
 2. Baptism is the expected, outward confession of an inward reality.
- d. What does it mean to be baptized “**in the name of** the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5)?
 - i. see also Matthew 28:19
 - ii. “Name” implies authority (1Corinthians 1:10-13)
- e. What does baptism symbolize? (Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:12-13)
 - i. Death to a life of sin (the “old self,” Romans 6:6)
 - ii. Burial: ratification of death
 - iii. Resurrection with Christ to a new life (2Corinthians 5:17)