

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
COURSE/HOLE 1 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH SEMINAR
LECTURE 3 - WATER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

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1. WHAT DOES THE WORD BAPTISM MEAN?

Our English word **Baptism** comes from the Greek word **Baptizo**, which means to **dip, immerse** or **whelm**, that is, to cover wholly with fluid. This cannot include sprinkling a few drops of water on a baby's forehead. That is dry cleaning.

An example that is used in the Greek lexicon to describe the word baptism is **dyeing** a garment.

2. WHY MUST I GET BAPTIZED?

FIRSTLY because Jesus was baptized and He **left an example for us to follow** in His steps.

Matt 10:24-25a (NAS) "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

25a It is enough for the disciple that **he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master.** "

Matt 3:13-17 (NAS) "Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the **Jordan** (river) coming to John, to be baptized (or dipped) by him.

14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying 'I have need to be baptized by you, and do You come to Me?'

15 But Jesus answering said to him, 'Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill (or complete) all righteousness (**for it is right for us to do everything that God requires** - Goodspeed).' Then he permitted Him (then John agreed to baptize Him - Phillips).

16 And after being baptized, Jesus went **up immediately from the water**; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him,

17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.' "

In **verse 15** we see that Jesus was baptized to **fulfill** or **complete** all righteousness by being **obedient** to His Father's will.

He was not baptized because He was a forgiven sinner - He had no sin. He was always righteous.

If Jesus was not baptized, He would have disobeyed the Father's will (i.e. sinned) and would no longer have been righteous.

Obedience always pleases God and brings the blessing of God.

NOTE: Only after this step of obedience was Jesus **anointed with the Holy Spirit**.

Christians are also righteous, and so like Christ are baptized to fulfill or complete all righteousness, by an act of obedience.

2 Cor 5:21 (NAS) "He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** "

SECONDLY, because it is a **commandment** of God in scripture.

Mark 16:15-16 (NAS) "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 He who has believed **and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.**' "

A true child of God desires to obey the Word and will remove all obstacles that stand between him being baptized by immersion.

How many of you love Jesus and appreciate Him dying for you?

John 14:15 (NAS) "If you love Me, you **will keep My commandments.** "

3. WHAT CONDITIONS MUST I FULFILL BEFORE I CAN BE BAPTIZED?

Acts 8:35-39 (NAS) "And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him (the eunuch).

*36 And as they went along the road they **came to some water**; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' (or what conditions must I fulfill before I can be baptized?)'*

*37 And Philip said, 'If you **believe** (in Jesus) **with all your heart, you may.**' And he answered and said, 'I **believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**'*

*38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they **both went down into the water**, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized (dipped) him.*

*39 And when they came **up out of the water...the eunuch...went on his way rejoicing.**"*

The Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip the evangelist this same question in **verse 36**.

The answer is found in **verse 37**. You must believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God - our only Savior, and have confessed Him to be the Lord of your life.

Rom 10:9 "That if you **confess** with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead**, you shall be saved."

Once you are saved, you are ready for the waters of baptism.

There is **no special spiritual plane** you have to reach to prepare yourself for the waters of baptism.

When you're born again you have received God's free gift of righteousness. There is nothing else you can do to prepare yourself for baptism.

Note that in **verse 38** they **both went down into the water**, for Bible baptism is by immersion.

In **verse 39** the eunuch went on his way **rejoicing** for having obeyed God in his baptism. So will you.

4. INTO WHAT NAME ARE WE BAPTIZED?

Matt 28:19 (NAS) "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**"

Jesus taught that we are to be baptized into the full name of our triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A **disciple** is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all who are following Christ must also follow Him into the waters of baptism.

Acts 2:38 (NAS) "And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (or because of - Dykes) **the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**' "

Here Peter is **not** giving us a **new formula** for water baptism but is **instructing** these disciples **in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ** that since they have repented and been forgiven for their sins, they must now obey God and get baptized. This is clearer still in the next scripture.

Acts 10:47-48a (NAS) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who **have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?**

48a And he **ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.**"

In the case of these Spirit filled Christians Peter **used his authority in the name of Jesus Christ to ORDER them** to be baptized and was not giving us a new formula for water baptism.

Some Christians have **struggled to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit**, because in their hearts they have determined to disobey God and not get baptized by immersion.

Acts 2:41 (NAS) "So then, those **who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.**"

In the light of the above scriptures, we baptize people in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ, into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

5. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER BAPTISM?

Water Baptism is **attending your own funeral service** since a **death took place when you were born again.**

2 Cor 5:17 (NAS) "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creature** (or creation - Moffatt); (TCNT) his

*old life has **PASSED AWAY**; a new life has begun!"*

Gal 2:20 (NAS) *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."*

Rom 6:3-6 (NAS) *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** (i.e. been born again) have been baptized into His death?*

*4 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 (or by the Father's glorious power - Weymouth), so we too might walk in newness of life.*

5 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,

*6 **knowing** this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."*

Verse 3 When you were born again you were baptized or placed into the body of Christ and became a **new creature** in Christ Jesus, having died to that old selfish sinful nature of satan.

Verse 4a As Christ was buried after dying with our sin, so **we are buried with Him** through the ordinance of water baptism.

A burial must take place as soon as possible after a death.

Verse 4b As God's glorious power raised Christ from the dead, so we too come up from the waters of baptism to live an entirely new life in the power which God supplies.

Water baptism is an **outward testimony to the world** which says that you have buried and are finished with your old life and are now living an entirely new life for Jesus Christ.

Verse 5 If we unite ourselves with Christ in His death by being baptized, God's promise is that we will certainly be like Him in the power of His resurrection.

Verse 6 We must **KNOW** that our old sinful nature was crucified with Him when we were born again, and buried when we were baptized, so that we no longer need to be slaves to sin.

Hos 4:6a (NAS) *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."*

John 8:32 (NAS) *"And you shall **KNOW** the truth, and the truth shall make (or set - Williams) you free."*

6. WHAT OLD TESTAMENT TYPES WILL GIVE ME A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WATER BAPTISM?

There are **three Old Testament types** referring to water baptism.

i) The children of Israel coming out of Egypt (the world) and going through the Red Sea into Israel (the land of living in obedience to God's promises).

1 Cor 10:1-2 (NAS) *"For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;*

*2 (TCNT) **all underwent baptism** as followers of Moses (NAS)...**in the sea.**"*

When the Red Sea closed behind them, there was **no consideration of going back to the world**, but only of pressing forward to follow and obey God. They had burned their bridges.

ii) Noah and his family being preserved through the **flood** by obeying God in building, and entering into the **ark** (faith in Jesus) to avoid the coming judgment.

They passed out of a sin sick world and 9 months later grounded on Mount Ararat to live an entirely new life for God.

The old had passed away - the new had begun.

There was not even an opportunity for consideration to return to the past life of sin and decadence (moral decay).

1 Pet 3:20-21 (NAS) *"...when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah (for 120 years God waited), during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons (Noah and his family) were brought safely through the water.*

21 (NEB) ***This water prefigured the water of baptism** through which you are now brought to safety - (TCNT)*

not the mere cleansing of the body, (Phillips) it means the ability to face God with a clear conscience - (NAS) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

iii) God commanded that every male in Israel was to be **circumcised** on the eighth day (*Gen 17:12*). This action served as a sign of God's **covenant** relationship with His people.

It signified their responsibility to faithfully serve God as a **holy people** in the midst of a **pagan world**.

Circumcision refers to a **cutting away of sin** and a **change of heart**.

Any male not circumcised was to be **cut off from his people** and regarded as a **covenant-breaker** (*Gen 17:14*).

Rom 2:28-29 (NAS) "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

*29a But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit...**"*

*Deut 30:6 (NAS) "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, in order that you may live."*

*Col 2:11-12 (NIV) "**In Him YOU WERE ALSO CIRCUMCISED** (Amplified) with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] **circumcision** [performed by] **Christ** by **stripping off the body of flesh** [the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts].*

*12 [THUS YOU WERE CIRCUMCISED when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] **FAITH** in the working (or power) of **God** [as displayed] when He raised Him (Christ) up from the dead."*

*Col 2:11-12 (TLB) "When you came to Christ, He set you free from your evil desires, not by a bodily operation of circumcision but **BY A spiritual operation, the BAPTISM of your SOULS** (your mind, will and emotions).*

12a For in baptism you see how your old, evil nature died with Him and was buried with Him..."

Old Testament circumcision was a cutting off of the foreskin of the male sex organ.

Now the New Testament speaks of the circumcision of the heart (the old sinful satanic nature) by the spirit of God at the new birth, and a burying of this in baptism.

What has died and has been buried by faith in baptism, is powerless to control our lives any longer - provided we walk in the spirit, not carrying out the desires of the flesh (*Gal 5:16*).

Baptism shows that we come out of one state or experience of bondage to sin, into a brand new experience of living a holy victorious and dedicated life for Jesus Christ.

7. MUST I USE MY FAITH IN WATER BAPTISM?

Yes. As you come up out of the waters of baptism, **praise God** that the old sinful satanic nature which drove you to sin is now buried, and that by the glorious power of the Holy Spirit working in your life you are going to live an overcoming victorious Christian life.

*Col 2:12 (NAS) "Having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised up with Him through FAITH** in the working (or power) of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

Faith is believing God's Word in your heart and boldly confessing that conviction with your lips. **Praising God** for the reality of His promise before it comes to pass is the **highest expression of faith**.

8. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Acts 16:30-31,33 (NAS) "And after he (the Philipian jailer) brought them out, he said, 'Sirs (referring to Paul and Silas), what must I do to be saved?'

31 And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.'

*33 And he (the Philipian jailer) took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and **immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.**"*

After we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must get baptized at our earliest available opportunity.

Baptism is one of the six **foundations stones** we have to build our Christian lives on. The longer it takes to complete the foundation, the longer it will be before we can start building the super structure of our Christian lives.

Heb 6:1-2 (KJV) *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation (i) of repentance from dead works and (ii) of faith toward God, 2 (iii) Of the doctrine of baptisms, and (iv) of laying on of hands, and (v) of resurrection of the dead, and (vi) of eternal judgment."*

9. IS IT SCRIPTURAL TO BAPTIZE BABIES?

NO! This is a religious practice that has no Biblical foundation whatsoever. Here are 5 reasons why.

i) Firstly, babies cannot repent of their sins (*Acts 2:38*).

Babies have not committed any sin and should they die they will go straight to heaven.

Matt 19:14 (NAS) *"But Jesus said, 'Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"*

ii) They cannot believe in the resurrection of the Son of God and receive Him as Savior by confessing Him to be the Lord of their lives (*Acts 8:36-37*).

iii) They are unable to understand the spiritual significance of water baptism (*Rom 6:3-6*).

iv) They cannot **choose** to obey God in baptism.

v) They cannot use their faith to walk in spiritual victory over sin after baptism. They do not even understand what sin is (*Col 2:12*).

10. HAVE I BEEN BAPTIZED?

You have **not** if your baptism does not fit the scriptural pattern as discussed in the Word of God...

i) You should have been born again before you were baptized.

ii) You should have been totally immersed in water.

iii) You should have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (*Matt 28:19*).

iv) You should have been at an age of understanding.

v) You should have been baptized by a Spirit filled believer.

Luke 24:49 (NAS) *"'And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city (i.e. don't go out and minister) until you are **clothed with power from on high** (i.e. filled with the Holy Spirit).'"*

11. WHAT MUST I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

i) **Ladies.** A bathing costume under a dress (white if possible).

ii) **Men.** A pair of shorts and a T-shirt or other (white if possible).

Bring a change of under-clothing and a large towel.

HOMework FOR LECTURE 3

1. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes until these truths register on your spirit man and as preparation for a simple true or false test next week.

2. Memorize **Acts 2:38** which will count for 10% towards your test result.

3. If you have not been baptized, do so at the first available opportunity. Read through these notes again on the morning of the day you are to be baptized.

4. **INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO COME AND ATTEND YOUR BAPTISM**, as it is a powerful witness to the unsaved that you are serious about following Jesus, and could result in them giving their

lives to the Lord. Pray for them everyday to be saved and set free from satan's bondage.

5. Those who are being baptized on Sunday must **collect their water baptism certificate** from the Layman's School of Training special promotions counter in the entrance foyer the following Sunday.