

## **Baptism**

### **Romans 6:3-7**

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Sometimes people ask, “Well, \_\_\_\_\_ is baptism so important?” Today we’re going to explore the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of baptism. Please don’t ever take the Bible for \_\_\_\_\_. It’s not simply \_\_\_\_\_ religious book. It’s unique and filled with God’s \_\_\_\_\_. It’s the only book that can \_\_\_\_\_ us where we came from, why we’re here, and where we’re going. The Bible teaches us the \_\_\_\_\_ that lead to eternal life. The Word of God is settled in heaven but it can \_\_\_\_\_ our lives for eternity. If we’re born again at all, we’re born again through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word. First Peter 1:23 says, “for you have been born again not of \_\_\_\_\_ which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

Today we’re going to complete our series on how we respond to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and what we must do. We’ve talked about the necessity of \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel and \_\_\_\_\_ what God says. We’ve shown the necessity of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and how faith is the foundation of Christianity. We’ve seen the necessity of \_\_\_\_\_, turning away from sin and to the ways of the Lord. Today we’re focusing on the need to be \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved.

Few people doubt the \_\_\_\_\_ to believe or repent in order to be saved, but there’s much controversy over baptism. People have mistakenly said baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ that people do to earn salvation. This simply isn’t \_\_\_\_\_. While it’s true we’re commanded to be baptized, baptism is not so much about what we do as it is about what \_\_\_\_\_ does for us. We’re going to study what baptism into Christ \_\_\_\_\_ and why everyone who chooses to follow Christ should be baptized to be saved.

### **Our reading today comes The Letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-7.**

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines baptism as "a ceremony or sacrament of admitting a person into Christianity or a specific church by dipping him in water or sprinkling water on him, as a symbol of washing away sin." This definition describes what baptism means in the English language, considering there are many \_\_\_\_\_ “Christian” groups that baptize in a variety of ways. But simply because the many denominations do things differently doesn’t mean that that’s what the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_, or that they teach all these different ways to baptize, and that all of them are God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

So, what does the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to the act of baptism? What \_\_\_\_\_ does the New Testament describe? The Greek word, *baptidzo* means to dip, to plunge, or immerse. It refers to the specific \_\_\_\_\_ of dipping or immersing in water. A different Greek word *rhantidzo* describes the action of \_\_\_\_\_. If the Lord or the Holy Spirit had wanted us to \_\_\_\_\_ for baptism, they would have moved the writers of the New Testament to use that word *rhantidzo* rather than *baptidzo*.

After an exhaustive survey of more than \_\_\_\_\_ examples in Greek literature and ancient translations, an author, Thomas J. Conant, in his book, *The Meaning and Use of Baptizein*, concluded: “That the word *baptizein*, during the whole existence of the Greek as a spoken language, had a perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ and unvarying import. In

its literal use it meant, as has been shown, to put \_\_\_\_\_ into or under a liquid, or other penetrable substance, generally water, so that the object was wholly \_\_\_\_\_ by the inclosing element.”

When the New Testament speaks of baptism, the event described points to an \_\_\_\_\_ in water. In Matthew 3:16, after Jesus was baptized, He “went \_\_\_\_\_ of the water.” In John 3:23 John baptized in the Jordan River “at Aenon near Salim, because there was \_\_\_\_\_ water there.” Baptism or immersion would, of course, \_\_\_\_\_ enough water to immerse an adult. In Acts 8:3-39, Philip and the Eunuch went \_\_\_\_\_ into the water; Philip baptized the Eunuch; and they both came \_\_\_\_\_ out of the water. Whatever happened in this baptism, it took place while they were \_\_\_\_\_ in the water.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore we have been \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). The \_\_\_\_\_ of being buried and raised in water is striking here! It’s not an accident that baptism is a burial and a resurrection that leads to \_\_\_\_\_ of life. Romans 6:5-7 says, “For if we’ve become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

Baptism is that time when our old body of \_\_\_\_\_ is crucified with Christ and done away with. It’s buried! At that point we’re no longer \_\_\_\_\_ to sin. When we are \_\_\_\_\_ up with Him, we have new life just as the Lord Jesus had new life when He was resurrected. The resurrection caused the new life for Jesus, and our resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in baptism causes our newness of life. Before baptism we are \_\_\_\_\_ in sin, but after baptism we are freed from sin and \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life!

Commenting on this passage William Barclay said, “Commonly baptism was by \_\_\_\_\_ immersion and that practice lent itself to a symbolism to which sprinkling does not so readily lend itself. When a man descended into the water and the water \_\_\_\_\_ over his head, it was like being buried. And when he emerged from the water, it was like rising from the \_\_\_\_\_. You see baptism was symbolically like dying and rising again. And the man \_\_\_\_\_ to one kind of life and \_\_\_\_\_ to another; he died to the old life of sin and rose to the a new life of grace.”

There is a second passage that \_\_\_\_\_ baptism to the burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Colossians 2:12-13 says, “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having \_\_\_\_\_ us all our trespasses.” Baptism is an act of \_\_\_\_\_ in the powerful working of God. In baptism we \_\_\_\_\_ our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We’re \_\_\_\_\_ with Him in His burial and resurrection by baptism. Before we were baptized, we were dead in our sins, but in baptism God makes us alive just as God made Christ alive. In making us alive, God \_\_\_\_\_ us of all our trespasses. Did you notice in this passage how God is \_\_\_\_\_ in forgiving us and in making us alive. Baptism is an \_\_\_\_\_ of faith on our part. The command in Acts 2:38 and 22:16 is to “be baptized.” Grammatically, “be baptized” is a command, but it’s a \_\_\_\_\_ command. God commands us to demonstrate our faith by \_\_\_\_\_ someone baptize us in the name of Jesus Christ. “Be baptized” means someone \_\_\_\_\_ is immersing us in water. Someone else is acting on us. We \_\_\_\_\_ the action. That’s what “passive” means.

Just as we receive the physical act of baptism in water, we receive God's gracious \_\_\_\_\_ on us in the forgiveness of sins and making us alive. In baptism, we are born again or born from above with \_\_\_\_\_ of life. God is the One powerfully \_\_\_\_\_ on us. Baptism is not some work of merit on our part to \_\_\_\_\_ salvation. No! Baptism is an act of faith on our part whereby we \_\_\_\_\_ God's powerful working in our lives just as He powerfully raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God buries our old man of sin; God raises us up; God makes us alive; God washes away our sins; and God makes us new.

When people say, "Well, you don't have to be baptized to be \_\_\_\_\_," they've missed the point. If baptism is the time when God \_\_\_\_\_ on us, then baptism would have to be necessary for us to be saved.

There is great \_\_\_\_\_ to immersing as baptism. We should \_\_\_\_\_ what God is doing to us by saving us in baptism or immersion. We have no right or authority to \_\_\_\_\_ sprinkling for immersing in fulfilling God's commandments. If God is providing salvation to us through our baptism, then shouldn't we be careful to abide by the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_. Shouldn't we \_\_\_\_\_ with what He's told us to do. Sprinkling and immersing are \_\_\_\_\_ things; they're not the same. While many have sprinkled people and called it baptism for centuries, sprinkling for baptism has no \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture; you just can't find it there. Baptism by sprinkling is an old, \_\_\_\_\_ tradition begun centuries after the New Testament.

Obedying the Lord doesn't mean doing what's conventional or doing what's \_\_\_\_\_. Obeying the Lord means honoring the Lord to the point that you're \_\_\_\_\_ to do what He says. Honoring and respecting God means you won't \_\_\_\_\_ to God's commands, take away from God's commands, or \_\_\_\_\_ God's commands to suit yourself. You simply, lovingly, humbly \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

So, \_\_\_\_\_ should a person who is penitent and believes in Christ be baptized. There are numerous reasons. Peter told the guilty people at Pentecost in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." People repent and are baptized so that their sins will be \_\_\_\_\_. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). Baptism is the time when God \_\_\_\_\_ away our sins.

Baptism is the time we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves with Christ or become united with Him. Galatians 3:26-27 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Baptism is a necessary \_\_\_\_\_ of faith. Placing your faith in Christ necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ baptism. The faithful sons of God today are baptized into Christ and clothed with Christ.

We've already seen in Romans 6:4-7 and Colossians 2:12-13 that baptism is the time that God \_\_\_\_\_ us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. In baptism we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, buried with Him, and \_\_\_\_\_ with Him to walk in newness of life. Since the old man of sin is crucified with Him in baptism, God at that time frees us from sin and its \_\_\_\_\_. Baptism is also that time when we begin \_\_\_\_\_ our new life in Christ and with Christ. From that day forward we are new people who \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. His blood has cleansed and \_\_\_\_\_ us; we are no longer our own. We have been bought with a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

When we're baptized, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us as God's children to the church. The Bible says, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one \_\_\_\_\_, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all

made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13). Baptism unites us with Christ and with those who are in His body, the \_\_\_\_\_.

To be in the church is to be in God’s \_\_\_\_\_. Paul wrote the church at Colossae, “For He (Jesus) \_\_\_\_\_ us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14). Forgiveness and membership in the church or kingdom are \_\_\_\_\_ of being baptized into Christ. This agrees with what the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). How are we born again of water and the Spirit? This is surely by baptism. The Lord says that without baptism we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ into the kingdom of God.

In Christ, we have the \_\_\_\_\_ and blessing of God. Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” In Christ, we have the promise of eternal life. First John 5:11-12 says, “And the testimony is this, that God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; and he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” The way to have the Son is to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Son by baptism when you confess Christ and repent of your sins. Baptism is certainly not the \_\_\_\_\_ thing necessary to faith. We’ve seen in this past month that hearing God, believing in Jesus, repenting of sin, confessing Christ as the Son of God are also necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.

So then, why is baptism so important? Why are we talking about its necessity? Because baptism is that culminating \_\_\_\_\_ in our obedience. Our faith, repentance, and confession \_\_\_\_\_ us to baptism. But baptism is that point when God acts upon us, transforming us from people \_\_\_\_\_ in sin to people \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. That’s when we are \_\_\_\_\_ and become members of the Lord’s church. To talk about baptism means revealing how God unites us with Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ us, makes us His children. Oh, what a blessing! Nothing else could be so very important for today and for eternity! The New Testament gives us many \_\_\_\_\_ of people being baptized. The 3,000 who obeyed the gospel at Pentecost in Acts 2:4 were baptized that \_\_\_\_\_. In Acts 8:12, when the Samaritans believed the \_\_\_\_\_ of Philip about Jesus and His kingdom, they were baptized right then. They didn’t \_\_\_\_\_. The Eunuch in Acts 8:36 asked to be baptized. It was \_\_\_\_\_! He wasn’t content to wait until another day. He came up out of that water \_\_\_\_\_. In Acts 22:16, Ananias asked Saul of Tarsus, “why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins, calling on his name.” In Acts 16, the jailer and his household considered baptism so important that they were baptized in the middle of the \_\_\_\_\_. Why the urgency? Why the emphasis on acting quickly?

I’ll tell you why. Being baptized is necessary for you to be \_\_\_\_\_. It’s necessary for you to receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins. Baptism is necessary for you to be \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ and to become a Christian. The Bible never contemplates the idea of a Christian who has \_\_\_\_\_ been baptized. Baptism is not something that you do \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved; baptism is the \_\_\_\_\_ when God saves you. That’s when God takes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and washes you free from sin and makes you His child. First Peter 3:21 says, “Corresponding to that, baptism now \_\_\_\_\_ you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Baptism is how we \_\_\_\_\_ to God to be saved and to have a clear conscience. Have you been baptized into Christ? If you believe and you’re repentant, won’t you be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins today?