



Water Baptism

How can we be ready for the coming of Christ? Let's look at it from the book of Revelation.

Revelation 16:15 “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” Based upon the Bible to be ready we must keep our garments, and none of us should be found naked.

Revelation 6:15-16 “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:” The wicked in the last day are crying out to the mountains and rocks to fall upon them because they want to hide. Why do they want to hide? Because they have sinned and are naked. They were enjoying the things of the earth, they were spiritually naked. In the sight of God if you don't have the garment of righteousness, you are naked. Have you ever been naked in public? It is a shameful feeling and you want to hide.

You get ready for His coming by being clothed. We cannot buy it, we must receive it from God, by knowing how to put on Christ. How do we put on Christ from the Bible?

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” All of our righteousness is as filthy rags. You cannot of yourself keep God's law in order to be saved, only when He is living in us and we are saved by His grace which works in us to will and do of His good pleasure, then and only then do we have power to do His will. We need the power of God. If you are a Christian, you believe in the grace of God and it is a power to forgive your sins.

So from the Bible how do you put on Christ? When you are baptized, yet just because you go under the water, it does not mean you put on Christ. At baptism you not only enter into the ceremonial baptism in terms of actually going into the water, but it is the spiritual experience of baptism that you put on Christ. Many of us are lacking the spiritual experience of baptism.

What is baptism, spiritually and physically?

Ephesians 4:4-5 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” We have only one faith and one type and kind of baptism. We should and must be baptized, but we should not rush baptism. Baptism should follow after studying the Bible, getting to know Jesus and making some decisions for God.

There is only one type of baptism, it comes from the Greek language which comes from this situation, when you have a factory with a shirt without a collar and they dip it in this solution or water with red or other color die and it is immersed in the water and comes out red. That is what baptism means, to be completely immersed in the water. If there is a person that knows about baptism it is John the Baptist.

John 3:23 “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.” You need **much water** to baptize people because it means immersion.

Matthew 3:16 “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:” When the Bible says He came out of the water, it means He had to go into the water. So was He baptized by sprinkling? No immersion.

Acts 8:38-39 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. **39** And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.” Notice how the eunuch was baptized, by going down into the water. They went into the water and they came out of the water. You are completely covered. Why do we have to emphasize this? We will see in a moment.

1 Peter 3:20-21 “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **21** The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” Eight souls were saved by water. The water that destroyed the wicked saved the eight souls that were in the ark. If the flood did not come, the wicked may not have let Noah and his family alone, they may have killed them. The Bible goes on to say that baptism saves us, by washing away our guilt and transgression. This story is an example of baptism. In Noah’s day was it sprinkling? Did water come up from the bottom and top? Did water truly cover the whole world?

Genesis 7:11-12 “In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. **12** And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”

Genesis 7:19-20 “And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. **20** Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.” The Bible makes it very clear that everything was covered by water. And that is an example of today’s baptism.

We must follow the example of the Bible and immerse and not sprinkle. What are some other prerequisites for baptism.

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Before you are baptized you have to have repentance, which means return, come back and have sorrow for sin and turn away from sin. If you want to repent but have no sorrow for sin and repent, that motivation does not come from you, but from Jesus by you looking upon Jesus and taking in all He did for you and how He suffered for you. Repentance is a gift from God, the Bible says, so it is something you can ask for, and He will give it to you.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Teach all nations is an experience that comes before baptism. You don’t want to go into a marriage without knowing much about your fiancé. God wants you to know Him before you are baptized as well. They

need to be taught to observe all things...Although you cannot know everything about the Bible, but we need to know the major things about salvation, God, and the Bible. You should know them so you have an intellectual and spiritual knowledge about God. Then when you follow God it will be based on an intellectual and spiritual knowledge.

Based on these facts there should not be infant baptism, why, because that baby cannot repent nor be taught. The Bible does not teach about infant baptism, but it does teach about infant dedication. But it is the parents who need to be consecrated to God, because it is them who need to raise that child after Gods order. Infant baptism came about through the dark ages misunderstood doctrine. They thought just because you are born, you are guilty. Of course we have sinful flesh and sinful nature, but just because we are born does not mean we have committed a sin. But they taught that everyone that comes out is a sinner and guilty. They taught that the only way you can be washed is by being baptized, and that is true, but they further taught that if you died without being baptized, you either go to hell or purgatory. So mothers whose children died, the mothers were in fear that her child was suffering in purgatory. So the church came up with the idea, that just in case their babies die, they will baptize them so they are covered. But the Bible does not teach that nor about purgatory. See what happens when you have a wrong doctrine? You have a wrong mindset, and a wrong lifestyle based upon that wrong mindset.

Does the Bible talk about re-baptism? Yes it does, and some people need to be re-baptized. Somewhere in their experience they walked away from God totally, not just one mistake here or there, they said I don't want God. Or a person who commits public sin like stealing something or adultery, and the public needs to know you rededicated your life. Remember Peter was baptized, but he sinned against God by denying Jesus three times, but Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to confess Jesus again. The third reason why people should be baptized is this, *Acts 19:1* "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples," *2* He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. *3* And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. *4* Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. *5* When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

They did not know about the Holy Spirit, as they were baptized by John's baptism. Therefore they were re-baptized because they were given more light. Not with every little bit of light are you to be re-baptized, but with major light or major doctrines of the Bible. They did not have the Holy Spirit which is like not having 1/3 of the Godhead. It does not mean that your first baptism was not sincere.

Why should you get baptized? Can you just accept Jesus and not get baptized? Baptism is a public confession before God and man. It is like a marriage. How many of you would let your daughter go with a man without a wedding? Without a wedding there is no sign of permanent commitment. With baptism there is a permanent and public commitment.

So what is the spiritual meaning of baptism?

Romans 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" When we get baptized it is like we are dying with Jesus.

Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The Bible says baptism is like burying someone, and you only bury dead people. So when you go in the water, it is like a burying, coming out is like a new life, and your walk is like having a marriage with Jesus.

In your lifetime there are three great ceremonies. 1. Birthday. 2. Marriage. 3. Funeral. But in baptism they are like the opposite. 1. Funeral, you bury yourself. 2. New life, a birthday. 3. Marriage, or wedding with Jesus. Baptism combines all three in one day.