

# SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

*“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

**Acts 2:41-42**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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.”*

**Matthew 28:18-20**

The subject of baptism has been one of the most contentious among Biblical teaching. Many unbiblical views are being propagated.

We must always identify a true New Testament local church by its doctrine. One of the clear teachings of the Bible that identifies us as a Baptist church is this great doctrine of baptism. We believe in **believer’s baptism only, by immersion only**.

History teaches us that baptism has been one of the most divisive issues for the last two thousand years. Millions of Bible believers have been put to death simply by refusing to sprinkle their children and infants.

Roman Catholics and Protestants alike have persecuted those who held to a biblical view of baptism. It has been well documented that the Roman Catholic Church imprisoned, tortured, and killed many who refused to baptize their infants. It is also documented that various Protestant denominations have persecuted those held to a biblical position.

## **Felix Manz an Anabaptist**

Felix Manz was born in 1498 in Zurich, Switzerland. He was a born-again believer who strongly held to the biblical teaching of baptism. He was labeled by other religious groups as an Anabaptist, which means “re-baptizer.” This name was used as a derogatory term towards all those who had a Biblical position on the doctrine of baptism.

Felix Manz was an enthusiastic evangelist who preached the gospel message. He also refused to abide by the city council’s requirement for children to be baptized. In 1524, Manz decided to write a tract refuting the erroneous teachings of Martin Luther on Communion and Baptism. His endeavors were halted by the government. Manz did not agree with Zwingli, Luther or Calvin. Manz submitted a petition to the Zurich city council advocating the biblical teaching of baptism and rejecting the idea of infant baptism. He requested to appear before the city council to defend his position. As a result, he was labeled a rebel, and on March 7, 1526, the Zurich council passed an edict that made adult re-baptism punishable by drowning. Felix Manz refused to

submit to that edict by continuing to preach the gospel and baptize converts. He was arrested and later, on January 5, 1527, at 3:00pm, he was led from his prison cell to a boat. The boat then took him to a dock where he was tied with his hands behind his knees and fastened to a weight. They pushed Felix in Lake Zurich where he drowned for his position on baptism.

What are some different views on Baptism?

- Some sprinkle infants and children
- Some pour water on the head of adults or children
- Some immerse under water
- Some are baptized for the dead
- Some do not practice any form of baptism

May the Word of God always be our guide when it come to our doctrinal positions. This issue of baptism is clear in Scripture and must be strongly defended by those who love the Lord and His Word.

According to **Matthew 28:18-20**, we understand that baptism is part of the mission of the local church. It is therefore very important for this doctrine to be understood for it to be properly practiced.

## I. THE DEFINITION OF BAPTISM

For a baptism to be Biblical it can only be by immersion. All other forms of baptism are invalid and unbiblical.

### A. The Word Baptism Explained

The Greek word rendered “*baptize*” in the Bible is “*baptidzo*.” This word literally means, “*to dip, to plunge, to immerse, to submerge, to overwhelm.*”

When a person died and was buried under ground the same word “*baptidzo*” was used to refer to the body being totally submerged and buried.

**Baptism is likened to a b\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Colossians 2:12**, “*Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*”

**Romans 6:4**, “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...*”

### B. The Word Baptism Exemplified

There is only one true kind of baptism. This true baptism is clearly practiced in the New Testament. There is no variety in the Bible concerning the subject of baptism!

**How many baptisms are there?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:4-6**, *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

**For this baptism they went down** \_\_\_\_\_ **the water.**

**Acts 8:38**, *“...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”*

**John was baptizing in Aenon because there was** \_\_\_\_\_ **water there.**

**John 3:22-23**, *“After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”*

**After our Lord’s baptism, He went** \_\_\_\_\_ **of the water.**

**Matthew 3:16**, *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...”*

**According to the Word of God, Baptism is defined as a:** (circle the correct answer)

Sprinkling       /       Pouring       /       Submerging

Immersion is the only mode that fits the biblical meaning of the practice of baptism. Baptism is a picture of the burial of and resurrection with Christ, and only immersion fits this symbolism. Sprinkling and pouring does not. (**Romans 6:4**)

All other baptisms must be rejected by the New Testament local church. To sprinkle a child is NOT baptism.

## II. THE DEMAND OF BAPTISM

The church has been commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A church that does not baptize is failing to do the work of the Lord.

### A. Scriptural Command

This baptism must be very important to the local church because it is part of its mission. The Gospel must be preached, believers must be baptized, and those who have been baptized must be taught.

**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: 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.”*

## **B. Scriptural Candidate**

Baptism demands a scriptural candidate. The Bible is always consistent to show us who can be baptized. There is one thing that always precedes baptism.

**Before they were baptized they gladly \_\_\_\_\_ his word.**

**Acts 2:41**, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

**They that were baptized had first \_\_\_\_\_ the preaching of Philip.**

**Acts 8:12**, *“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”*

**What is the one requirement before baptism? If thou \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 8:35-38**, *“The Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest, and he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”*

**Was the Holy Ghost received before or after their baptism? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 10:46-48**, *“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, and that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”*

**Before Lydia was baptized she \_\_\_\_\_ unto the things which were spoken by Paul.**

**Acts 16:14-15**, *“And a certain woman name Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that*

*she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household..."*

**What is the Scriptural order for baptism?**

**The Corinthians H \_\_\_\_\_, B \_\_\_\_\_, and were B \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 18:8**, *"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."*

There is no Scriptural evidence for infant baptism. There is one clear requirement before a person is to be baptized: they must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

### III. THE DESCRIPTION OF BAPTISM

#### A. The Misrepresentation of Baptism

Many people believe that baptism is a "means of God's grace," they teach that it is a channel through which salvation comes.

**We are not saved through baptism, we are saved by grace through \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Ephesians 2:8**, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

**We have been washed from our sins in His own \_\_\_\_\_, and not by baptism.**

**Revelation 1:5**, *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood..."*

**Paul was not sent to \_\_\_\_\_, but to preach the gospel.**

**1 Corinthians 1:17**, *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."*

In this verse, we see a clear **separation** between the preaching of the gospel and baptism. Baptism is not part of the Gospel message of the gospel. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but it is not the Gospel. For a preacher to teach that a person must be baptized in order to have their sins washed away is heretical teaching.

#### B. The Meaning of Baptism

**Baptism is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of his death and resurrection.**

**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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”*

**Baptism is called a like \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 Peter 3:21**, *“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:”*

**What does Biblical baptism communicate?**

**That the believer is taking the first step of obedience as a Christian**

**Acts 2:41**, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

**That the believer has understood the Gospel message**

**1 Corinthians 5:3-4**, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*

**That the believer is identifying with Jesus Christ**

**Romans 6:3-4**, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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.”*

**That the believer is not ashamed to make his faith in Christ public**

**Romans 10:11**, *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”*

**Does the Bible teach that Baptism is necessary for salvation?**

There are two passages commonly used by those who promote baptismal regeneration. They are **Mark 16:15-16** and **Acts 2:38**.

**Mark 16:15-16**, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be **damned**.”*

The wording of this verse is very precise and important. We are teaching that it always needful to study the immediate surrounding context of any word and verse. The first part of the verse is often quoted by false teachers, but the second part of always neglected.

Here we are taught that baptism is closely associated with believing, but it is separated from salvation itself. The sinner is not damned because he doesn't get baptized; he is damned because he doesn't believe.

**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."*

The believer does not get baptized **in order** to be forgiven of his sins; he is baptized **because** he has been forgiven of his sins. The word "for" is used in the Bible in two ways:

- In order to received remission of sins
- Because you have received remission of sins

Those are the only two possibilities. As we compare Scripture with Scripture we come to the right interpretation of this verse.

**Three references will shed light on this verse:**

**The gospel and baptism are separated.**

**1 Corinthians 1:17**, *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."*

**The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

**The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 1:16**, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Fill in the blank:

Paul was not sent to \_\_\_\_\_ but to preach the gospel. (1 Corinthians 1:17)

How many baptisms are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the proper candidate for baptism?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does the word "baptize" literally mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to the Word of God, Baptism is defined as a: (circle the correct answer)

Sprinkling / Pouring / Submerging

What does Biblical baptism picture?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any evidence for infant baptism in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any evidence for sprinkling as a form of baptism in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Mark 16:15-16 teach that baptism saves? Explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the order of events recorded in Acts 2:41-42:

R _____	the Word	=	Salvation
B _____		=	Baptism
A _____	unto the church	=	Church Membership
C _____	in the doctrine	=	Christian Growth