

August 28, 2016

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?