

Baptism

Study #3 Entering the Kingdom

When a person comes to Christ they are called to turn from their old way of life (in the Kingdom of this world) to a new way of life (in the Kingdom of God). *Repentance* involves turning away from the old (cf. Acts 2:38,40), whereas *baptism* involves embracing the new Kingdom.

In studying the following passages about baptism, consider these basic questions:

- Who was baptized? Why? By Whom? By what authority? Where? When?
- What are the Biblical requirements or conditions for baptism?
- What is the meaning/significance of baptism?
- What is the relationship between baptism and belonging to the Body of Christ / a local body of believers?

A. Read Matt. 28:18-20

1. What is the place of baptism in the Great Commission?
2. Who should be baptized?
3. Why?
4. What is the relationship between baptism and being a disciple of Jesus? Can a person be a disciple of Jesus, walking in obedience to Him, without being baptized?
5. Who has the authority to baptize? Where does that authority come from (who gives the authority)?

B. Read Acts 2:36-41

1. Who was baptized?
2. Why were they baptized? How is baptism related to faith and repentance?
3. When were they baptized?
4. Who baptized them? By what authority? (see Matt. 28:18-20)

C. Study Acts 8:12-13; 8:35-38; 9:17-18; 10:44-48; 16:14-15; 16:31-33; 18:8, and answer the following questions:

1. Who was baptized?
2. Who baptized? By what authority? Where?
3. Was Baptism the norm for those desiring to follow Jesus? Why? (see Matt. 28:18-20)
4. When were believers baptized? How much time passed between faith and baptism?
5. What (if any) were the requirements/qualifications for being baptized?

D. Read Romans 6:2-6. Baptism is the confirmation of our initiation into the kingdom of God. How does Baptism picture a believer's identification with Christ? (cf. Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:11-12)

E. How does baptism identify us with other members of His Kingdom (Acts 2:41)?

1. To whom were the first believers added (Acts 2:41)? When were they added?
2. Have you been baptized?
3. Have you been added? To whom? If not, should you be added? To whom should you be added?

Some further, practical questions about baptism, to consider from a Biblical viewpoint:

- When should new believers be baptized? How much time needs to pass between faith and baptism? Should there be requirements / qualifications for being baptized?
- Who should baptize new believers?
- Does the Bible say anything about where and how believers should be baptized?
- Should babies/children be baptized? Why (or why not)? When and how?
- Should there be a relationship between baptism & joining a church/covenanting?

Other passages on baptism:

Luke 3:2-22

1 Cor. 1:13-17; 12:13; Eph. 4:5

Acts 19:3-5