



# **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

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## Baptism

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## **1 BAPTISM**

Our Lord commanded His church to make disciples and baptize believers. It is quite clear that the early church understood His teaching and obeyed it. Numerous references tell us of their immediate baptism after their salvation.

Since baptism is our Savior's imperative and was faithfully practiced by the New Testament church, every believer must carefully study and heed Christ's teaching on baptism.

- ☑ What comes to your mind when you hear the word “baptism?”

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## **2 WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

READ Matthew 28:19-20

- ☑ According to Jesus, what were His disciples to do?

- ☑ Who, then, should be baptized?

Due to the many misconceptions about baptism, there are several important foundational Truths to understand.

READ John 1:12, 13; Titus 3:5 Ephesians 2:8, 9

- ☑ How are we saved according to these passages?

- ① According to the following verses, what occurred before baptism took place?

Acts 2:36-40

Acts 8:9-13

Acts 16:30-34

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### **3 WHY SHOULD A BELIEVER BE BAPTIZED?**

#### ***A. IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS CHRIST***

READ Romans 6:3-16

Baptism is not a ritual, rather, it is an identification with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an outward expression of your inward faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is a reminder that you are dead to sin and have arisen to walk in newness of life.

#### ***B. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP***

READ Acts 2:36-42

Notice the events which preceded membership to the local church:

1. Conviction
2. Repentance and Faith
3. Baptism
4. Membership

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## 4

### HOW SHOULD A BELIEVER BE BAPTIZED?

In the New Testament, the Greek word for "baptize" is "baptizein," which means "to dip or immerse."

READ the following passages:

1. John 3:23
2. Acts 8:36-39
3. Romans 6:3-5
4. Colossians 2:12

Circle the mode of baptism that fits the thought of these passages?

**sprinkling      pouring      immersion**

Biblical immersion symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3). It consists of excluding the person from sight (in posture or repose of death) once in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and rising to newness of life.

What would you say to a person who says, "I'm a disciple of Christ, but have no desire to be baptized?"

#### **Life Change**

Have you been baptized after salvation? Why or why not?

If you are reading this booklet because you are being baptized, write out your testimony being sure to include "Before Christ I was..." "But God...." and "After Christ, I am...." (If you need help with this, please see one of the Pastors or Elders.)