

# Questions Concerning **BAPTISM**

## Baptism pictures

### The Gospel



death



burial



resurrection

**For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death,  
we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Romans 6:5**

**... I Declare unto you  
The Gospel**

**"... Christ died for our  
sins...was buried and  
that he rose again the  
third day according to  
the scriptures.**

**I Corinthians 15:1-4**



**By  
Dr. James Wilkins**

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*Dedication and  
Acknowledgments*

*The author would like to dedicate and make acknowledgments to the following people.*

*My older brother, Pastor Clint Wilkins and his faithful wife of almost fifty years, Wanda.*

*It was through their knowledge of learning how to properly divide and study the Bible which led me to proper Baptism and to a life of happiness and fruitful service.*

*And*

*Their Disciple, Pastor Ted R. Cooper who was the one who baptised me. The author owes much of the success of his life to Bro. Ted.*

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*The whole Cooper clan for their love, prayers, support and encouragement to a young preacher boy.*

*I remain eternally grateful,*

*Dr. James (Bro. Jim) Wilkins*



# QUESTIONS CONCERNING BAPTISM

Introduction: God has always worked through chosen vessels. He called out and chose Abraham. He developed and worked through Abraham's family -- Isaac and Jacob. The twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) became the twelve tribes of Israel. On Mount Sinai (Exodus 20), God gave His law to Moses, which was to govern his chosen nation, Israel. In the beginning of the New Testament, God chose to work through a local church, which was to serve as the Pillar and Ground of Truth (His Word) and carry the Gospel into all the world. This local church was to reproduce itself by establishing local churches of like faith and practice in every land.

There were many people that lived during the same times who were saved other than Abraham and his family. There were many who had a personal saving faith that was not of the tribes of Israel. There are many saved who are not members of a local church, but GOD has always worked through chosen vessels in preserving his pure, unadulterated FAITH (Truth) and practice.

As a church, we believe that Scriptural baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, by the authority of a church. It is to manifest faith in a beautiful pictorial or emblematic form of the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, while declaring our intention of burying our old life to arise from the watery grave and follow Jesus in newness of life as a Christian.

## **Danger, The Author May Be Biased.**

The author, in presenting his views upon the important subject of baptism, does so in order to express his heartfelt convictions. Please keep three things in mind as you read this essay.

**FIRST**, the author is striving to obey the command of "Showing himself approved unto God" because he will soon stand before God and give account for his writings.

**SECOND**, the author's views are from the conservative side of the Baptist family who accepts most of the historical baptistic positions, which may have prejudiced him in his thinking. The author was not saved in a Baptist church, nor does his family come from a Baptist background. These views are from years of study.

**THIRD**, the author accepts the historical position of the **liberty of conscience, which gives each person the same privilege** of having his own heartfelt convictions. These convictions may be completely contrary to the author's, but the author is not offended or threatened by them. The author's strong convictions of earnestly contending for the truth can be summarized in the following statement, "**Be strong in the Bible and sweet in the Spirit.**" Please remember, unto whom much is given, much is required. If a person has a proper understanding of the Bible, it should humble him and cause him to be a better servant.

These views are presented for your biblical and intelligent study. There are four questions which need to be answered in order to have a good understanding of the ordinance.

**FIRST**, who should be baptized?

**SECOND**, what is the Scriptural mode of baptism?

**THIRD**, what is the design or purpose of baptism?

**FOURTH**, who has the authority to perform the ordinance of baptism?

## I. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

In the accounts of baptisms found in the Bible, only people who had personally accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour were

baptized. Consider the following examples.

### EXAMPLE ONE: THREE THOUSAND BAPTIZED IN ONE DAY!

In Acts 2:38, Peter answered the question of, "Men and brethren what shall we do," by saying, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you for (because of) the remission of sins." In Acts 2:41, the Scripture declares, "As many as gladly received his word (were) were baptized: and the same day were added unto them about three thousand souls."

### EXAMPLE TWO: STOP THE CHARIOT

In Acts 8: 27-40, the Ethiopian Eunuch accepted the Lord and asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip answered, "If you believe with all thy heart thou mayest." The Eunuch declared his personal faith by saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" Upon this declaration, "they went down both unto the water, both Philip and the Eunuch," and Philip baptized him.

### EXAMPLE THREE: BAPTIZED AFTER MIDNIGHT

In Acts 16: 30, the Philippian jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." The jailor was saved and then took Paul and Silas home with him.

This led to the whole family accepting Christ as their Saviour and being baptized that very night, even though it was after midnight. Acts 16: 30-34.

### EXAMPLE FOUR: JOHN THE BAPTIST REFUSED TO BAPTIZE THE LOST

In Matthew 3: 7-12, John the Baptist refused to baptize the lost religious Pharisees and Sadducees until they brought forth evidence of being born again.

## II. WHAT IS THE SCRIPTURAL MODE OF BAPTISM?

The greatest controversy among professing Christians during the past 1900 years has been concerning the proper mode of baptism.

### AN UNDISPUTED FACT

During the first three hundred years after the death of Christ, all church historians agree that there was only one mode of baptism, which was immersion.

### THE MODE WAS CHANGED

By order of the Bishop of Rome, the mode of baptism was changed from "immersion" to "sprinkling or effusion." The Greek word "Baptizo" means "to immerse or dip." When the Catholic church divided into two bodies or denominations, the Greek branch "dipped" because all their people understood the Greek language, while the Roman branch sprinkled their infants. This is still true today.

### THE WORD "BAPTIZO" WAS ANGLICIZED

The translators of the King James Version, when translating the original Greek language into the English language, transliterated or anglicized the word "Baptism." In doing this, they created a new English word.

When we use the term "transliterated," we mean the scholars who translated the New Testament from the original Greek language into English did not translate the word "BATIZO" when it referred to the ordinance of baptism. They used the corresponding letters in each language to create a new English word.

The Greek	"Beta"	became an English	"B."
The Greek	"Alpha"	became an English	"A."
The Greek	"Pa"	became an English	"P."
The Greek	"Tau"	became an English	"T."
The Greek	"Ise"	became an English	"I."
The Greek	"Sigma"	became an English	"S."
The Greek	"Mu"	became an English	"M."

One may wonder why the translators did such a thing. They were following the instructions of King James of England. In the preface of the earliest editions of the King James Bible there was a special charge from the King to the scholars who were to follow certain guidelines.

There were two major denominations in England during the period of the translation: the Baptists and the Catholics. The king's specific instructions to the scholars were, "Not to help the Baptists on the one hand or the Catholics on the other hand." They were also instructed not to pervert or mis-translate any verse. Every thing went well until they came to the ordinance of baptism. The word clearly meant "to dip or immerse." If they translated the word it would clearly help the Baptists. The solution they chose was to make a new English word, "baptism," but the scholars had yet another problem. When they came to the word BAPTIZO in other passages which did not refer to the ordinance of baptism, what were they to do?

"Send Lazarus to 'dip' (baptizo) his finger in water," Luke 16: 24. Jesus said, "When I have 'dipped' (baptizo) it," John 13: 26. Their solution; translate the word baptizo everytime, except when it refers to the ordinance of baptism. In that case, create a new word. When people see someone sprinkled, and it is called baptism, they will not question, but soon accept it as the proper mode. In this writing we want to help the reader have a clear understanding of the mode of baptism and the importance teaching it pictures.

## ALL SCHOLARS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS AGREE

Every scholar of every denomination agrees and will tell you that the word from which we get our word "Baptism" means, "to dip, to plunge, to bury, to cover." The Biblical mode or method of baptizing is the immersion of the believer in water.

## ONE FURTHER QUESTION, "HOW WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?"

"And Jesus when he was baptized (baptizo) went up straightway out of the water." Matthew 3: 16. "Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized (baptizo) of John in Jordan. "And straightway, coming up out of the water," Mark 1: 9-10. If you had never heard a sermon or a word on baptism, and you read where these two men went down into the river Jordan, John baptized Jesus, and they came up out of the water, what would be your conclusion? Common sense would dictate that baptism is immersion.

Please read Acts. 8:38-39, which we used as example two in order to show who was a proper candidate for baptism.

**Visualize the chariot STOPPING!** Two men get out and go down into the water. Notice in the verse the descriptive term, "both," is used twice. Philip baptized the Ethiopian and then they came up out of the water.

Could you in your mind's eye ever make that to mean that the two men went to the edge of the water, where Philip got some water and sprinkled it on him?

The Scriptures are even clearer than our visualization. "He commanded the chariot to stand still, and they went down BOTH into the water, BOTH Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized (Baptizo) him, and when they were come up out of the water..."

Another brief comment concerning baptism is very descriptive. John was baptizing near Aeon "because there was much water there," John 3: 23. Much water? What mode of baptism takes "much water?"

## III. WHAT IS THE DESIGN OR PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

### WHY IS ONE TO BE PUT COMPLETELY UNDER THE WATER?

The word "baptize" means, "to put completely under the water and raise up again." In Romans 6: 4-5, Paul explains why Jesus commanded the believer to be placed completely under the water and raised up again. The act pictures the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. "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 the 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 A PICTORIAL ORDINANCE

**Baptism pictures the true Gospel.** It pictures that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures. When one is baptized, he is saying by his actions, "I believe Jesus is the Son of God, that he died on the cross for my sins, that he was buried and rose again, and by doing so, He paid for my sins and saved me from hell. I will come up from the watery grave to follow him as one of His disciples."

### THE WRONG DESIGN OR PURPOSE OF BAPTISM:

The Roman Catholics were the first to stress the wrong design of baptism. Since that time, other denominations have missed the true design or purpose and followed their error to some degree.

On the subject of baptism in their catechism, under the question, "**What is baptism,**" I give the exact quote: "Baptism is a sacrament which cleanses us from our original sin, and makes us children of God and of the church." **Second question,** "Is baptism necessary for salvation?" Their answer is, "Baptism is

absolutely necessary for salvation." In answer to these two questions, we disagree by saying that baptism is not essential to salvation, but it is **ESSENTIAL TO OBEDIENCE!**

The Scriptures make it very plain that baptism is not an act by which one receives the forgiveness of sin. The Scripture first denies error, then affirms truth. In John 1: 11, the verse declares, "He came unto his own (Jews) and his own received Him not. But to as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." They received him not (the negative), but as many **as received him** (the positive)... Note once again, the Scripture first denies error, "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor the will of man," then affirms the truth, "**but of God,**" John 1: 13.

"The like figure (or picture) 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," I Peter 3: 21.

Here he says, baptism doth now save us, **not the putting** away of the filth of the flesh, the forgiveness of sins, but **an answer of a good conscience** toward God. Accepting Jesus by faith saved him; the public picturing of his faith in Jesus by the public picturing of the death, burial and resurrection gives him a good conscience.

#### **BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC DECLARATION; YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN:**

Baptism pictures that you are going to follow Him. A young man raises his hand, swears allegiance to his country and becomes a soldier. He is in the military. But he declares what branch of the military he is in when he puts on the uniform.

A girl says, "I do," and is married. The wedding ring declares that she is married.

A person accepts Jesus as his Saviour by faith. Baptism is the public declaration, the uniform, the wedding ring, the obedient act

declaring that he is a Christian. It is the outward testimony of his inner faith. It says, "I believe that Jesus died for me, paid for my sins, and rose again. I am now declaring my faith in him as my Saviour. I am burying the old sinful life (past) and I will arise to walk in the newness of life and follow Him as one of his disciples."

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#### **IV. WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO PERFORM THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM?**

There was never any question in the Old Testament that the Jewish nation was the one to whom God committed His Law. They may not have always conducted themselves as his proper representatives; in fact, much of the time they did not. But, that did not alter the fact that God worked through and in the nation of Israel in the Old Testament days. God had a chosen custodian of His Word in the Old Testament, and God set up a chosen custodian of His Truth in the New Testament.

#### **THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS STARTED BY JESUS**

**THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "CHURCH."** The word translated "church" is found over 110 times in the New Testament. It is made up of a compound Greek word, "Ek" and "Klesia." "Ek" means, "out of," and we get our English word "exit" from the prefix. "Klesia" means, "to call for a purpose," "to call into an assembly for an express purpose." Put the two words together and one has the meaning, "called out into an assembly for a purpose." The Holy Spirit, in choosing a word to express **the nature of the church**, chose a word that could only mean a local body or assembly.

**SOME THOUGHTS CONCERNING THE CHURCH:** The church was placed on the earth for the same purpose that every

living thing was placed upon the earth. God commanded that everything was to reproduce after its own kind. Genesis 1: 24. One finds a reference to a single church throughout the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and up through the first eight chapters of the book of Acts. After the eighth chapter of Acts, we find the term "churches" as the first church began to reproduce itself in churches of like faith and practice.

Each local church has:

Christ as head of the local body.

The Holy Spirit as its guide and teacher.

The Bible as its sole guide or textbook.

The preaching of the Gospel to "every creature in the world" as its goal or objective.

#### **JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARED THE MATERIAL FOR THE FIRST CHURCH.**

John came preaching repentance: "**Repent ye,**" Matthew 3:2.

John **preached faith** in Christ, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John 1: 29. John boldly declared, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him," John 3: 36.

Those that repented and accepted Jesus as Saviour, **John baptized**. "There was a man **sent by God,**" John 1:6. "**He that sent me** to baptize with water," John 1:33. John baptized all of the twelve apostles: When the church was seeking God's will to fill the office which Judas vacated, one of the requirements for a person qualified for the apostolic office was that he had to be a convert through John's preaching. "Beginning from the Baptism of John," Acts 1:21-22.

After John had gathered the Spiritual material to go into the Spiritual house, by baptizing those who had been saved, Jesus came onto the scene and **called them out and formed His local church**. Please note his call of the first disciples. Jesus called

Peter and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," Matthew 4:18-19. In Matthew 4:21-22, we have the account of Him calling John and James.

Remember, the literal meaning of the word "church" is, "to call into a local assembly for a purpose." **The simple beginning of the first church** occurred when Jesus called the prepared material into a local body and began the task of training them.

John stated that the work he had been sent into the world to do had been accomplished. He announced that truth by stating, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease," John 3:30.

In John 4:1-2, we find Jesus and His disciples (the church) were the ones who were winning and baptizing converts.

#### **THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS COMMISSIONED BY JESUS**

There are five important facts found in the Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:18-20.

**"ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME."** The word power is from a word which means authority. Jesus literally told His church that "all authority" in Heaven and earth was His, and based upon that fact, He was commissioning them to do business in His name or authority.

**"GO YE, THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS,"**  
v19.

Teach or make disciples of all nations.

**"BAPTIZING IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST.":** It is right here that we have the express command of Jesus to his church, that they are to go into all the world, get people saved, **then baptize them**.

**THE CHURCH IS COMMANDED TO DEVELOP THE CONVERTS:** The church is to teach these saved, baptized converts well enough so they can teach their converts "**to observe,**" or do, all things.

**THIS COMMISSION IS AGE LONG:** It was given by

Jesus to his church, and the duration of this commission was "until the end of the world (or age)." The local church is as much under the orders of Jesus to go, win, then baptize their converts as was the first church which was started by Jesus. The literal word study of the words in verse 20 declares, "I will be with you always, perpetually, on every occasion **until the very close and consummation of the age.**"

The marching orders were given by Jesus to his church. They have never been altered or rescinded. The church is still commissioned to:

Teach all nations.

Baptize those who are saved.

Teach those who are saved to observe, or do, all things which he commanded.

**The Baptist churches are not Protestant, since they were never in the Catholic church.** There has always been a string of true churches in the world, beginning with the first one which Jesus organized and trained. These churches have continued preaching the same truths which Baptist churches believe and preach today. [Return to course main page and take test #4](#)

## V. OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING BAPTISM

We will consider some of the most often asked questions concerning baptism in this section.

### WHY WE DO NOT SPRINKLE.

**First**, one cannot find one example of sprinkling in the Bible.

**Second**, If the Lord had meant for the church to sprinkle, He would have used the word **Rantizo** (sprinkle), instead of the word **Baptize** (dip) when defining the pictorial ordinance of baptism.

**Thirdly**, sprinkling does not meet the design of the pictorial ordinance which is to show the **death, burial and resurrection**

of Jesus from the dead.

### WHY WE DO NOT SPRINKLE BABIES.

**First**, There is not a single example in the New Testament where babies or infants were sprinkled. We do not do it because it is a tradition of men and not a commandment of the Bible.

**Second**, Babies are still under the protection of the saving blood of Christ and do not need any further protection. The practice of sprinkling babies arose from the **misconception** that baptism had something **to do with aiding a person's salvation** from Hell. The scripture declares that Jesus is the Savior of **all men**, especially **those that believe**. The Bible teaches that the shed blood of Christ atones for every man's sins until each individual becomes aware that he is a transgressor of the law, or is a sinner. The ones who are **mentally retarded**, even though they sin, are still protected by the death of Jesus who died as their substitute and paid for their sins.

### DAVID'S BABY WENT TO HEAVEN WHEN HE DIED.

We have the example of David's baby son going to heaven when he died. David, when informed about the baby's death, was consoled and testified, "But now he is dead, wherefore shall I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him**, but he shall not return to me," **II Samuel 12:22-23**

Many good and sincere people wrongfully practice sprinkling babies when there is no need nor commandment to do so.

### WHY WE DO NOT ACCEPT BAPTISM FROM OTHERS

#### WE ARE DISCUSSING BAPTISM, NOT SALVATION.

Remember, we are not discussing salvation. One is saved by grace and becomes part of God's great family of believers when he accepts Christ as his personal Savior. Baptism, whether administrated properly or improperly does not add

to or take away from the fact that a person is saved or lost. Every person who is born again is my brother or sister in the Lord. We belong to the **same family** but we do not belong to the same church. Baptism was a prerequisite to becoming a member of a local church. A person is born into God's great family through the new birth, but in the New Testament he didn't become a member of a church until after baptism. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there was added unto them (church) about 3,000 souls." Acts 2:41.

**AS STEWARDS WE MUST BE FAITHFUL.** The Bible said, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," Eph.4:5. The Bible promises to "thoroughly furnish unto every good work," II Tim. 3:17. Paul commanded the Corinthian church, "Keep the ordinances (pictorial ordinances) as I delivered them to you," I Cor. 11:2.

These and many other scriptures teach that a church is not at liberty to do as she pleases. The Bible is the sole book of authority and we are only stewards concerning its teachings. I Cor. 4:1.

### **We are servants and not judges.**

We are to preach and practice the principles of Christ in the spirit of Christ. We have no right to change or alter the Bible.

If someone was baptized for the wrong reason (to be saved) or by the wrong mode (sprinkling), or if they were not baptized properly, the local church is **obligated to follow** the Bible principles concerning baptism. Generally, when someone doesn't have a good conscience because they were not baptized properly, the Holy Spirit will direct them to follow

the Word and be baptized.

The local church is given orders by its head, Jesus, **as to how to administer baptism and to whom**. When someone is saved or comes for baptism, whether they are of another faith or not is not the question. The church is interested in pleasing Christ and obeying His direction as laid down in the Bible. Many people do not know that the word "Baptize" was not translated and have never studied the issue from a biblical viewpoint. They are following what they saw and learned as children. We are obligated to teach them what the Bible said, without regards to whether they are Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, or Non-religious. People's religious background has nothing to do with what we preach or practice. We are, to the best of our ability, to tell them the truth.

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take test #5

## **VI. HEART SEARCHING QUESTIONS**

### **SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED AGAIN?**

There have been many times that a serious minded person, who was searching for truth, would ask the author this question. "Is it ever proper for one to go through the ordinance of baptism more than once?"

I was baptized when I was a baby. Would God want me to be baptized again?"

In a kind, loving way I would always assure them by answering, "Yes."

Then, according to their situation, I would help them understand that it was not only proper, but God commanded them to do so. Remember, baptism is only to be administered after one accepts Christ as Savior. Many times these questions were asked after they had received Christ as their savior. This meant that whatever mode of baptism they had gone through **was invalidated** because they were not saved at the time the

ordinance was administered.

Many times the ones asking these questions were baptized by the wrong mode (they were sprinkled), others were baptized in the name of Jesus only and not after the pattern which Christ commanded in the great commission; that is, "in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," Matt. 28:19. Others were baptized in order to obtain salvation, or by churches who were not preaching the true plan of salvation.

**IF THE CHECK IS NO GOOD, YOU REPLACE IT:** If one gives a personal check for an item, he is saying to that business that I have that much money in my account and have the authority to dispense it to you for your goods. If **he did not** have money in the bank, he would be giving a false statement. The check would not be **any good!**

When one **is not saved** and follows the Lord in baptism, he is making a false statement **as surely** as if he were writing a **bogus check**. When, he in truth, at a later time accepts Jesus as his personal Savior, he should make the true declaration by being baptized properly.

## THERE ARE BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS

Remember, Jesus set down some proper standards which make it proper baptism. One should desire to please Jesus by being baptized properly.

**There is a proper candidate:** someone who has personally accepted Jesus as Savior.

**There is a proper design** or purpose: to declare one is burying the old life in order to follow Jesus.

**There is a proper mode:** one which pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

**There is a proper agency:** a local church.

I believe that a church, who is a steward of God, **as they minister for Him** He brings people into the church's circle of influence. When this occurs the church has the responsibility to tell them the truth.

If a person was not baptised by the right mode (immersion) he is entitled to the knowledge of what the right mode of baptism is.

If someone was not baptised for the right reason or design (to give a testimony) but to obtain salvation; when he is saved he needs to be baptised properly.

If a person was baptised by a church that the person now understands (by the Bible) is not teaching the truth; then what's the problem? He needs to be baptised by a church which is teaching and baptising by the Bible.

What would you think about a church which is practicing the principles of God inconsistently? If it benefits the church and pastor personally to tell people what the Bible teaches then they do it. But if they are afraid that if they teach people the truth (about Baptism) they may lose them they fail to do it. Are they true to their calling? Have they done that person right? What will Jesus say when that event is reviewed in Heaven?

**WHEN I WAS BAPTIZED AGAIN:** When the author had to be baptized a second time, the Devil and my natural tendency caused me to question why. **At first I refused.** My inward thoughts were, "I am almost wet from the last time." In order for me to become part of the local church family, I needed to be baptized. I continued to attend the church services. The Holy Spirit continued to impress upon me that it was where he wanted me. He impressed upon me this question, "You could be baptized for Jesus sake, couldn't you? Since Jesus has done so much for you and your family, couldn't you do it for him?"

On July 4, 1950 I was baptized. Twelve days later I surrendered to preach and preached my first sermon that night.

Since I had totally surrendered my will to God in order to be baptized, it was easy for me to surrender to God's purpose for my life. Submitting to scriptural baptism had **conditioned** me to do God's will.

### **IS THERE ANY EXAMPLE IN THE BIBLE WHERE SOMEONE WAS BAPTIZED AGAIN?**

Yes, there is an example in the 19th chapter of Acts where Paul baptized twelve men and their families over again. Acts 19:1-5.

**THEY HAD BEEN IMMersed AND THEN REIMMERSED AGAIN.** The point of note in verse three, they had been **previously immersed**. Secondly, in verse five Paul **baptized them again**. That fact is clear! There may be room for discussion as to why he baptized them again but there is no doubt that he baptized some folks who had been baptized previously.

**WHY DID HE BAPTIZED THEM AGAIN?** Weren't they saved when they were baptized the first time? This is where many brethren may say the problem lay. They weren't saved and when Paul led them to Christ, he baptized them upon the profession of their faith. This could be so; and if it is, it strengthens the point that baptism is only for people who have personally accepted Jesus as their savior.

**THE BIBLE CALLS THEM, "DISCIPLES."** "And it came to pass that, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul came to Ephesus and findeth certain disciples," Acts 19:1. There is no reason to believe that these people weren't saved. Please note the introduction of a preacher named Apollos. What part did he play in this unusual episode? In the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts we find that Apollos was a mighty preacher. He had been saved

under the ministry of John the baptist and baptised in the River Jordan. Now, many miles from where he was saved, he was preaching the Gospel. The ones who were saved Apollos baptised in the name of John; that is all he knew, "Knowing only the baptism of John" Acts 18:25.

Aquila and Priscilla met him and "expounded unto him (Apollos) the way of the Lord more perfectly," v.26. In otherwords, they taught him that John was only a fore-runner whose job was to prepare the way before Jesus. Jesus had come and the authority to baptised had passed to an institution. While Apollos was up in Corinth getting straighten out by Aquila and Priscilla, Paul came across some of his converts in Ephesus. In verse five these converts were baptised in the name (by the authority) of Jesus as commanded in Matt. 28:19 "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The problem seem to lie in the disciples were either baptised by the wrong authority (name or authority of John) or were not baptised in the name of the Trinity as commanded by Jesus or both. Either way we have the example of people who were saved being baptised a second time.

**GOD BLESSED PAUL'S ACTION.** Not only do we have the example of people being baptized the second time, but we have God setting his approval upon the action. One of the greatest revivals found in the book of Acts followed.→

Return to course  
main page and  
take test #6

### **VII. WHY DO THE MORMONS BAPTIZE FOR THE DEAD.**

In the city of Salt Lake there is a continual parade of people who are baptized by proxie for the dead. Why do they practice this far out ordinance?

**First**, I know that they have baptized literally hundred of

thousands of people who have already died. They do this by proxy. Some living, well meaning, person is immersed, for or in behalf of, a person who has already been buried. Some have been dead for many years.

**Second**, they do this in order to give the person who is dead a second chance at obtaining eternal life at the resurrection.

**Third**, they perform this ordinance even though both the Bible and the book of Mormon teach against it. Both the Holy Bible and the unholy book of Mormon teach that in whatever state the person dies, in Christ or in an unrepentant condition, that person will forever remain.

**Fourth**, the verse that they base this false practice on is I Cor. 15:29. "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"

## THE SUBJECT IS THE RESURRECTION

What is the subject under consideration in this passage of scripture? The whole 15th chapter of I Corinthians is discussing the **resurrection**.

IN VERSES 5-9, Paul tells of those to whom Jesus appeared in his glorified, resurrectional body.

IN VERSE 12, he ask the question, "How say some among you there is no resurrection from the dead?"

IN VERSE 35, he points out, "How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come?"

The whole chapter is dealing with questions concerning the resurrection. In refuting the doubters that say there is no resurrection Paul makes the following arguements

If there is no resurrection from the dead, Then:

Christ is not raised. v.13

Our preaching is vain. v.14

Your faith is vain. v.14

We are false witness v.15

You are yet in your sins v.16-17

IN VERSES 20-28 we have a parenthetical discourse concerning the place Jesus will have in the future millennium.

THEN IN VERSE 29, Paul returns to his argument concerning the proofs of the resurrection of Christ He asks the question, "Why then baptize for the dead (Christ) if the dead (Christ) be not raised from the dead?" Why do all the people who show forth the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus through the PICTORIAL ordinance of Baptism if Jesus is still in the grave?

So the final argument that Paul makes proving that Jesus arose from the dead is baptism, which pictures that event.

The one that they are baptizing for is Jesus; not some other unknown person or people. He is saying that everyone is testifying of HIS resurrection when they are baptized.

**ROMANS 6:3-11 DEALS WITH THIS VERY TRUTH.** - Paul said, "Know ye not, that as many of us as were baptized unto Jesus Christ were baptized **unto his death**?" v.3. He then explains that baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and gives the testimony of the one being baptized.

1 Cor. 15:29 is a testimony of the resurrection of Christ every time someone is baptized. When they are baptized they show HIS DEATH, HIS burial and his resurrection. Paul's argument is, **why do they do that**, if "the dead rise not AT ALL?"

## THE BOOK OF MORMON TEACHES, NO SECOND CHANCE:

Alma 34: 32-35 teaches that man does not have a second chance after death.

In these verses from Alma, their own book teaches that;

**First** "this life is the time to prepare to meet God."

**Second** if you don't do it in this life then the darkness comes

"wherein there can be no labor performed."

**Third** "for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time you go out of this life will possess your bodies in that eternal world."

**Fourth** "If ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death ....you have become subject to the spirit of the devil .... and the devil hath all power over you."

**Fifth** "the spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you and hath no place in you."

**Sixth** "and this is the final state of the wicked,"

These are quotes from Alma 34: 32-35

**FINAL STATEMENT:** If baptism for the dead is mentioned in the book of Mormon, I cannot find it. But the above teaches that there is nothing that any of the dead can do that can change their state after death. It also teaches that there is nothing that anyone can do which would help the ones who have already died.

**Dear Brother,** You need to put your faith in Jesus and him alone. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts 4:12.

Return to course  
main page and  
take test #7

## VIII. WHY BE BAPTIZED?

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? BECAUSE IT IS COMMANDED!

One is saved, as saved as he will ever be by grace! Baptism will not add to or make him any more saved than what he is - if he is really saved. Then, **why be baptized?** One should be baptized because the Bible **commands** one to be baptized. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15.

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? IN ORDER TO GIVE A TESTIMONY.

**Talk is cheap!** It is popular to say, "I'm a Christian." But when someone publicly goes down into the water, professes with

his mouth that he believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that as the son of God He paid for my sins by dying as MY Savior, that is strong. Then, when the minister says, "Upon your profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, I now baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and upon that declaration the person is buried in the baptismal waters and raised up again - that IS powerful!

I have seen many, many people get under conviction as they watched one of their dearest loved ones make that pictorial testimony. On more than one occasion, as we shook hands with the candidate who was just baptized, we had to repeat the service all over again. Someone who came to witness the ceremony, got under conviction, was saved and desired to follow their Lord in Baptism.

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? TO CORRECT A MISTAKE.

Some well meaning parent went against the Bible by having a baby sprinkled or baptized as a baby. They meant well, but they were honestly mistaken. They were, no doubt, acting in good conscience. Their intentions were good but they were mistaken. You can help them by correcting that mistake. They raised up a child to do what was right. When their child heard the truth concerning baptism they submitted to the Bible.

A person was baptized but they **were not saved** at the time. They made a mistake. By being baptized they are correcting that mistake.

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? TO SHOW YOUR LOVE TO CHRIST.

Christ is the one who died for me. He is my hope. He is the one who causes me to have assurance of seeing my saved loved ones again. I am a Baptist but the Baptist didn't die for me. The Baptist denomination didn't pay for my sins.

When I am baptized, I am showing my love for Christ by

putting Him in His rightful place. He is first, then comes my family, friends and denomination. I say, "Jesus, I love you and am putting you first."

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? I'LL MAKE GOD HAPPY.

Why should a person be baptized? It will make your Heavenly Father happy. When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan river, about 60 miles, to be baptized of John. When He was immersed, God the Father spoke from Heaven saying, "**This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased,**" Matt. 3: 17. If you follow Jesus in scriptural baptism, it will bless your Heavenly Father and make Him happy.

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? IN ORDER TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Now you have a better understanding of the subject of baptism. Some that know you have great confidence in you. They believe, if there is anyone who does what is right, it is that person (you). Now you can become a good example by doing what the Bible teaches. By being baptized you help them come to the knowledge of greater truth.

### WHY BE BAPTIZED? TO HAVE A BETTER REWARD.

Many times people draw back because they are selfconscious or timid. Sometimes they just don't see the need or importance of compliance. The Devil whispers, "It really doesn't matter. You know and God knows-- that's all that counts."

God has a procedure of spiritual growth. First, salvation, then a public declaration of Christ through the ordinance of baptism, then a walk of faith as a Christian. If baptism is omitted, then the spiritual growth is interrupted, the child of God has a bad conscience, something is missing and the Christian life isn't as meaningful as it was. Interest wanes and before long the potential of a dedicated life is lost.

God knows what is best: first salvation, baptism then spiritual growth and service. Some people do not want to go against their family and tradition. "Grandfather would turn over in his grave if I were baptised again." "I can serve the Lord just as well." "God knows my heart." Jesus said, "Whosoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, **of him** also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh," Mark 8:38.

**Jesus stood up for you.** He humbled himself, "endured the cross, despising shame," for you. There is no such thing as a "**silent witness.**" There is no such thing as an "**unseen disciple.**"

The Devil is warring against your mind by putting those thoughts into your head.

Are you saved? Then you are either obedient or disobedient concerning baptism. It may be hard. Calvary was hard, but Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame," and now God has "highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." Phil. 2:9.

You must obey the Lord! You must follow the Lord in baptism or "you will draw back into destruction," Heb. 10:39.

**Follow the Lord and you grow.** Follow the Lord and the inward man dominates. Christianity becomes an exciting way of life. The scriptures open up to you and the Bible becomes alive. You can understand it better and your interest becomes more focused in church, in spiritual things. There is that "satisfaction in life" that you have been looking for. It is there! The end results will be--little by little--a strengthening of the inward man until you are finding "**that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God,**" Rom 12:2. At the judgement seat, Jesus will say "Well done, thy good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord," Matt. 25:21.

## WHY BE BAPTIZED? IT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR JESUS.

The Devil makes a person feel so inadequate, "I'm not important." "I'm just an old person. No one cares." On and on he wars against the mind, preventing people from obeying and growing.

"I can't sing."

"I can't give, and the little I have wouldn't make any difference."

"I can't teach."

All of the above may be true. But there is something that a little nobody can do for the one who died for you. You can be baptized. You can say, "Jesus, I love you, and I will let everyone know by giving a testimony of my faith and love by being baptized. I may not be able to do much, but I can do that-- and I **WILL!**"

### AN IMPRESSIVE ILLUSTRATION

They say that good teaching is when a teacher states his point, makes or explains his point and then illustrates his point.

Years ago I was sitting in the home of some great Christian people, Glyn and Margaret Lively. Margaret had just fed Louella and I a great Sunday dinner, and we were waiting for her future daughter-in-law- to arrive. She had some **questions concerning baptism.**

### IT IS ALL SO CONFUSING.

Soon a very lovely young lady of Italian decent arrived. It was the first time I ever set eyes on the future Lynn Lively Jr., who was, within a few years, to become one of America's foremost soul-winners and trainers.

Our conversation began by Lynn explaining, "I was **sprinkled**

a **Roman Catholic** when I was a baby. This morning I went to see my step-brother **poured upon in a baptismal service**, and tonight I am coming to your church to see Glyn's **immersion**. **It is all so confusing.**"

She looked at me with a puzzled look upon her face. "**Which one is right?**"

I have never heard a more honest question from a more sincere person in my life.

Without opening the Bible or offering any comment concerning the other two forms of baptism I began.

**Baptism is a pictorial ordinance.** It pictures the gospel. It pictures the death, burial and the resurrection of Christ. There was a nice, photograph of her soon to be husband sitting on the coffee table.

"That picture there of Glyn is not Glyn, it is only a picture of him." That is what baptism is. It is only a picture. It is a picture of the Gospel."

"The gospel?" Lynn questioned, "What is the gospel?"

The gospel is the good news that God loves you and has made provision for you. I quoted I Cor. 15:3-4. "That Christ died according to the scriptures and that he was buried, and that he arose again the 3rd day according to the scriptures." When I baptize Glyn tonight, I will immerse him all the way under the water and then raise him back up out of the water." I motioned, as if I were actually baptizing someone.

She let out a little shirk as if it had finally dawned on her, "You are going to put him all the way under the water?"

"Yes," I replied as I continued explaining that Christ literally died for Glyn--that he was buried--that after three days and nights He came out of the grave showing that He had not died for His sins. Because He was sinless, the perfect Son of God. The law demanded that sin be paid for. The wages of sin is death, or separation from God. If Glyn had payed for his sins personally, he

would have died and have been separated from God in Hell forever. But Jesus had taken upon himself Glyn's sins, (the sins of the whole world) and had paid for them by dying as Glyn's substitute. By taking up His life on the third day, He was proving that He was the Son of God, had no sin of His own, and therefore was paying for our sins.

Tears were now slipping down from Lynn's great big, brown eyes. She only became aware of it as tissue was placed into her hands. She was startled by the fact she was crying.

I went on. "When Glyn goes down into the water tonight, he is saying by this pictorial ordinance, 'I am trusting in Jesus as my Savior. He died for me to pay for my sins and was buried, but three days later He came up out of the grave, proving that He was sinless. That He wasn't dying for any sin He had committed because He hadn't committed any. He was dying for me. He was paying for my sins.'"

Glyn will be saying, "I am giving my testimony that I am going to Heaven because Jesus payed for my sins - I have accepted him. I am burying my old life, and when I come up out of this watery grave I am going to follow Jesus Christ as my Savior. I am going to live for him."

Lynn understood the Gospel through the explanation of the pictorial ordinance of baptism and also accepted Christ as her Savior that day. Since that day, there has been literally thousands saved by her personal effort and teaching.

**The true ordinance of Baptism preaches the Gospel with power.**

You must complete your reading of the Star Book of Christian Baptism. Once you have done that, then return to the course main page and take test #8.

Dear friend,

If you haven't accepted Jesus and Him alone for your hope of Heaven, please do so right now. If you will only ask Him to forgive you, and accept Him into your heart as your Savior, He will save you.

If you haven't submitted to proper baptism, please do so today. I shudder as I think where I may be if I had continued to resist the leading of the Lord by refusing to be baptized again. I am only a sinner saved by the grace of God. I am nothing special but I have lived **one of the most blessed and happiest** lives of any human on this earth.

I live a simple life and am a simple man. If I am permitted to live out the average allotted time on this earth of three score and ten years (Seventy) then at the age of 63 I have lived nine-tenths (9/10) of my life. I can see the finish line up ahead where my dear wife is waiting. It may be sooner than I think. Jesus could interrupt my race at anytime.

All of this quibble about doctrine, who is right or who is wrong are of this earth. I'll soon be done with this earth.

The Bible is the standard in Heaven and Jesus is the one who established the truth and will be the final authority of who is right and what is wrong.

My job is to get as many people saved as possible. My job as a minister and servant of God is to attempt to get those saved to be acceptable (doctrinally) to Jesus when this life is over and I stand with them at the judgement seat of Christ.

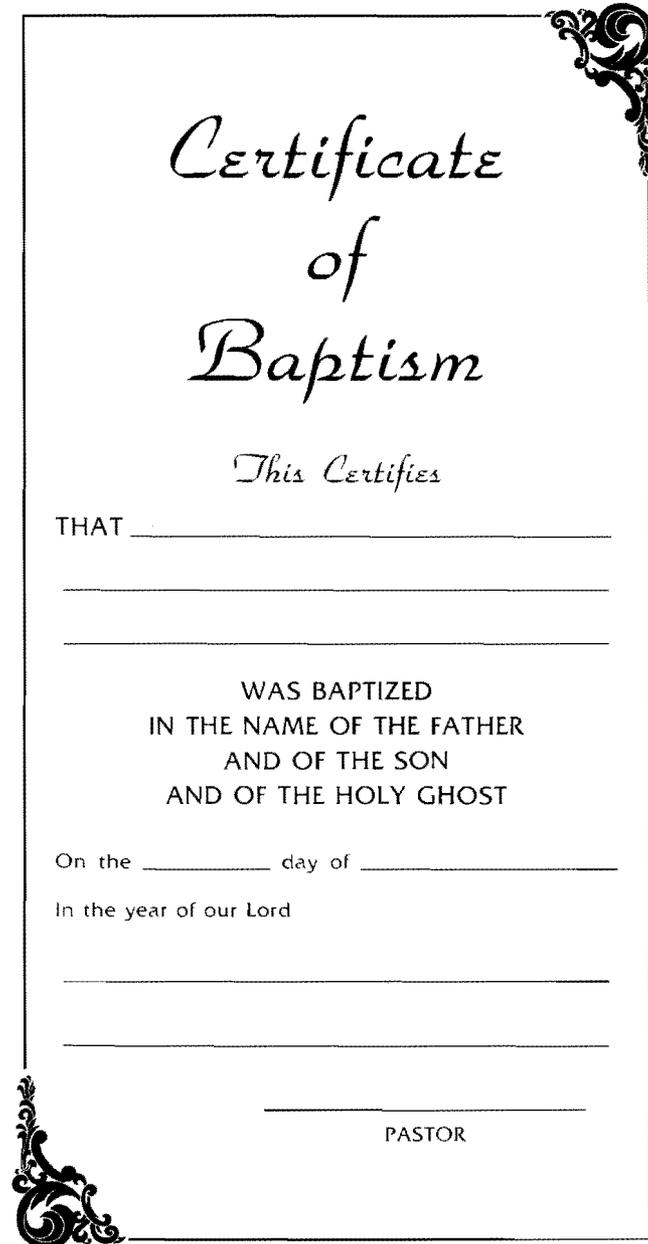
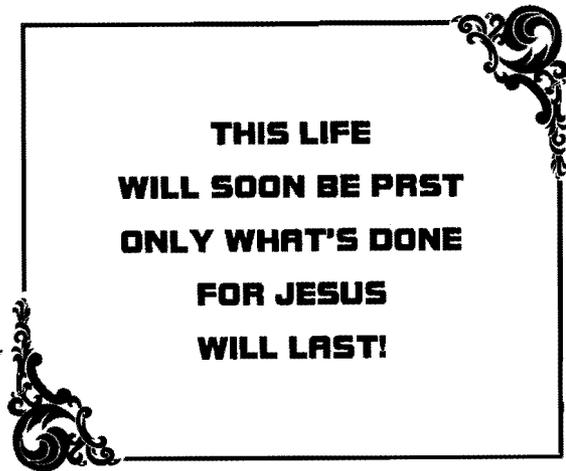
It didn't hurt me to be baptised again. In fact, it was a **turning point** in my life. It **conditioned** me to follow and obey the one that I should be following and obeying. Now, as I near the finish line and can see the lights of home just a short distant ahead, I am praising God, because I DID IT FOR HIM. I FOLLOWED Him.

**Dear friend**, all I want for you is for you to have the same **joy and confidence**. You are my friend, my fellow Christian and I love you. It doesn't effect my feeling toward you wheather you have proper Baptism or not. But I do want to be honest with you and at least let you know what I believe the Bible teaches about

Baptism.

Thank you for taking time to consider **these Questions on Baptism**. I hope you have been edified and blessed. →

You must complete your reading of the Star Book of Christian Baptism. Once you have done that, then return to the course main page and take test #8. Then return to this page to finish this textbook before proceeding to the Final Test.



*Certificate  
of  
Baptism*

*This Certifies*

THAT \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WAS BAPTIZED  
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER  
AND OF THE SON  
AND OF THE HOLY GHOST

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
In the year of our Lord  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PASTOR

## Read Instructions Carefully

Your official **BAPTISMAL SCORE CARD** will be validated by the official score keeper when you have finished your game [life] and stand before The **Bema Stand**.

This booklet, "*Questions Concerning Baptism*" was written by a friend who must stand before the **Bema Stand** and have his **SCORE CARD** validated by the official Scorekeeper also.

### BAPTISMAL SCORE CARD

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Was I Baptized after I accepted Christ?                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Did my Baptism picture the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Was I Baptized for the right reason or purpose?                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have I met all the requirements for proper Baptism?                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Should I consider being Baptized?                                    | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do I have a good conscience toward God and man?                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Would it hurt anything if I were baptized again?                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Was I baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized?                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Should I pray about what God wants me to do?                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Have I been honest with those who trust me to lead them by example? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

If I took my final examination today  
would I pass?

Yes  No

### For your benefit only

This test is for your information only and will not count toward your final grade. It is offered to help you test yourself so you will be properly prepared for your finals.

Remember, this is an open book test! **Only the answers found in God's Holy Bible are correct.**

### About The Author

Dr. James Wilkins is one of eleven children; nine boys and two girls. All of the family have publicly professed faith in Christ. Five of the boys are ministers of the Gospel. Dr. Wilkins is author of over 20 books or booklets. He was ordained and became a full-time pastor at the age of 20. For over 40 years he has continued zealously in his efforts to win and train people. His special desire is to help the new convert and layman understand the Bible well enough so they can minister to others.

Return to course main page and take Final Test.

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