

# Know Your Bible

## CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

### LESSON 6 (Final Lesson)

---

## BAPTISM

" . . . baptism doth also now save us . . . " ([1 Peter 3:21](#))

It seems strange that anyone would ever question the necessity of baptism in becoming a Christian. So much is said concerning this subject in the New Testament. Jesus said, "***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***" ([Matthew 28:18-19](#)). Why should anyone deny this universal commandment? Yet, countless thousands of religious people do just that.

It is true that a number of questions regarding baptism may perplex the student. Such questions as "Who should be baptised?" "How is baptism accomplished?" "Why should one be baptised?" will all present themselves to the thoughtful person. And, the answers are not difficult to find **if** we go to the right source - the Bible. Confusion concerning baptism has come about because of the conflicting, erroneous answers given by denominationalism over the years. Let us turn our backs on the babel of human tradition and seek guidance only from the Word of God.

## **I. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

Certainly it is important to know who is a proper subject for baptism. The student should understand that the Bible gives several prerequisites to be met **before** one can be scripturally baptised.

In the commission Jesus said, "***Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them.***" **Teaching** must precede baptism. Therefore, the untaught, or those incapable of being taught, should not be baptised. The insane, or mentally unbalanced, are not subjects for the Gospel.

Again, man must **believe** in Christ before baptism. Mark's account of the commission says, "***He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved***"

([Mark 16:16](#)) Without faith it is impossible to please God ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). Thus, to baptise one without faith, or before faith, is in clear violation of the commandment and renders the act null and void.

**Repentance** must precede baptism. Peter's words are, "**Repent and be baptised**" ([Acts 2:38](#)). The individual who hears the Gospel and believes it wants to turn away from his sins. It is only when such a change of mind takes place that one is truly subject to baptism. He who wants to be baptised and then continue in his sinful practices understands neither the meaning of Christianity nor the purpose of baptism!

What about infant "baptism"? Most arguments in favour of such would be stopped before they started if the above divine prerequisites were considered. Babies cannot be taught to understand the Gospel. They are too young to believe in Jesus and are incapable of repentance. Hence, little children are not subjects of Bible baptism. They have no need of it. Baptism is for sinners, but babies are in a state of innocence. This Jesus affirms when he says of little children, "**for of such is the kingdom of heaven**" ([Matthew 19:14](#)). Surely He would not have said this if children were polluted with sin; inherited or otherwise. There is not a single case of infant baptism found in Scripture! This means that infant baptism is without divine approval - a tradition of men that seeks to make of none effect God's command that one first be taught, believe, and repent of sins before baptism. (See [Matthew 15:6, 9](#).)

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. Not everyone is a proper subject for baptism. **True**  **False**
2. The Bible gives no pre-requisites before baptism. **True**  **False**
3. An infant meets none of the Bible pre-requisites for baptism. **True**   
**False**
4. A person should be baptised before repentance. **True**  **False**
5. Babies are in a state of innocence. **True**  **False**

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

6. It is  to know who is a  subject for baptism.
7. "He that  and is baptised shall be - 8. Babies cannot be  to understand the Gospel.
- 9. Little children are not  of Bible .
- 10. There is  a single case of   found in scripture.

### YES OR NO

11. Must teaching precede baptism? **Yes**  **No**
12. Can a person be scripturally baptised before he believes? **Yes**  **No**
13. Are there examples of infant baptism in the New Testament? **Yes**   
**No**
14. Is infant baptism a human tradition? **Yes**  **No**
15. Did Jesus teach in [Matthew 19:14](#) that little children are innocent? **Yes**   
 **No**

## II. HOW TO BE BAPTIZED?

Some say that baptism is a sprinkling of water. Others, that it is an immersion. Some feel that it makes no difference. But it is clear that baptism cannot mean both: "sprinkling" and "immersion". Which of these meanings is the correct one? Since the New Testament was written in the Greek language, we must go to dictionaries of New Testament Greek for the answer. The Greek dictionaries teach that baptism means immersion. Thayer says concerning baptism: "a word peculiar to N. T. and eccl. writ., **immersion, submersion**" (*Greek-English Lexicon of the N. T.*, p. 94). The Greek word for sprinkle is "rantizo"- a different word entirely.

The New Testament clearly teaches that baptism is an immersion. John's baptism required much water (read [John 3:23](#)). Jesus went into the water to be baptised ([Matthew 3:16](#)). The eunuch's baptism is most helpful. We read that the chariot was stopped and that both he and Philip went down into the water in order to be baptised. (See [Acts 8:38](#).)

The Bible calls baptism a burial. [Colossians 2:12](#) says: "**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**". Notice the action of baptism as graphically described in [Romans 6:3-6](#), "**Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that 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: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed that henceforth we should not serve sin**".

Baptism, then, is a true likeness of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Our old man of sin is to be crucified; we are to be buried in a watery grave of baptism; we are to be raised to walk in newness of life. Only immersion will fit this beautiful description of the new birth.

## Notice what others have said about these passages.

**JOHN CALVIN - Presbyterian** "The word baptise signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the primitive church."

**JOHN WESLEY - Methodist.** "Buried with him in baptism - alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."

**BRENNER - Catholic.** "For thirteen hundred years was baptism an immersion of the person under water."

**CONYBEARE & HOWSON - Anglican.** "This passage cannot be understood unless it be borne in mind that the primitive baptism was by immersion."

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

Water ([Acts 8:36](#))

Much Water ([John 3:23](#))

Coming to Water ([Acts 8:36](#))

Down into water ([Acts 8:38](#))

Both baptiser and baptised going down into water ([Acts 8:39](#))

Up out of water ([Matthew 3:16](#))

Burial ([Romans 6:4](#))

Resurrection ([Colossians 2:12](#))

Birth ([John 3:5](#))

Body washed ([Hebrews 10:22](#))

## TRUE OR FALSE

16. The Greek dictionaries teach that baptism means "sprinkling". **True**   
**False**

17. The Bible calls baptism a burial. **True**  **False**

18. John's baptism required "much water." **True**  **False**

19. Baptism should be in the likeness of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. **True**  **False**

20. Both Philip and eunuch went down into the water. **True**  **False**

## III. WHY BE BAPTISED?

Certainly this is our most important question. If baptism is not essential to salvation, it matters little who is baptised, how it is done, or if one is baptised at all. On the other hand, if baptism is essential to salvation, all need to know about its requirements.

The New Testament teaches that one must be baptised to become a Christian. It ranks with faith and repentance in the commandments of Christ. If one can become a Christian without these, then he may become a Christian without baptism.

**Notice why Cod commands baptism:** (Please study each scripture reference.)

1. To obey Christ our Saviour ([Matthew 28:18, 19](#); [John 14:15](#)).
2. To be born again ([John 3:3, 5](#)).
3. To enter the kingdom, the church ([John 3:5](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).
4. To put on Christ ([Galatians 3:27](#)).
5. To have sins washed away ([Acts 22:16](#)).
6. For remission of sins ([Acts 2:38](#)).
7. To be saved ([Mark 16:16](#)).

**"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." ([1 Peter 3:21](#).)**

### TRUE OR FALSE

21. Baptism is not essential to salvation. **True**  **False**
22. Baptism is a Bible commandment. **True**  **False**
23. Faith and repentance are more important than baptism. **True**  **False**
24. Faith, repentance, and baptism are all commandments of Christ. **True**  **False**
25. People became Christians in New Testament times without being baptised. **True**  **False**

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

26. "Except a man be born of  and of the , he  enter into the  of  God."
27. "For as many of you as have been  into  have put on .
28. "And now why  thou? Arise, and be , and    , calling  on the name of the  Lord."
29. " and be  everyone of you in the name of   for the



**Washing Away of Sins, [Acts 22:16](#)**  
**Death of Christ, [Romans 6:3](#)**  
**Blood of Christ, [John 19:34](#); [Romans 6:3-4](#)**  
**Being a New Creature, [Romans 6:5](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#).**  
**Putting on Christ, [Galatians 3:26](#), [27](#)**  
**Cleansing, [Ephesians 5:26](#)**  
**Sanctification, [Ephesians 5:26](#)**  
**Putting Off Body of Sins, [Colossians 2:11-13](#)**  
**Forgiveness, [Colossians 2:13](#)**  
**Kingdom, [John 3:5](#)**  
**Good Conscience, [1 Peter 3:21](#)**  
**Body (church) of Christ, [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#)**  
**Being a Child of God, [Galatians 3:26](#), [27](#)**  
**Wearing the Name of Christ, [1 Corinthians 1:12-17](#)**

**YES OR NO**

- 31. Will God accept a person who is unscripturally baptised? **Yes**  **No**
- 32. Were you christened as a baby? **Yes**  **No**
- 33. Is infant christening scriptural baptism? **Yes**  **No**
- 34. Have you been taught that you were saved before you were baptised?  
**Yes**  **No**
- 35. Is a person saved before baptism? **Yes**  **No**
- 36. Do you have a personal responsibility in seeing that you are scripturally baptised?  
**Yes**  **No**
- 37. Is your baptism scriptural? **Yes**  **No**
- 38. Would you like us to assist you in being scripturally baptised? **Yes**   
**No**

**MAY WE HELP YOU?**

We want to help you to be saved. If your conversion is not the same as the conversions we have studied, you need to do what they did. We want to help you become a New Testament Christian. Let us hear from you.

**Write here any Bible question you have:**

