

Dear reader, before starting the study of, “**Is Baptism Essential To Salvation?**” let us look at what seems to be the disregarded, and or forgotten command of baptism; given by God, through Jesus Christ and his apostles, and to us through their doctrine (**Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-16; Acts 1:1-4 and 2:40-42**). According to many well known religious leaders, in today’s religious world, there are many different ways given, to be right with God. These are mere men, just as we are. God the creator tells the created how to be right with Him (righteous) (see **Matt.17:1-8**). If you noticed, it was said many different ways. If there is more than one way, that’s too many according to the truth; thereby proving it is not of the truth (**Prov.14:12; John 14:5-6**). The same is true with faiths, but that’s another lesson. In a previous article “The Appointments”, we scripturally addressed the appointments of death and judgment (**Heb.9:27-28, James 2:26**), and that in the judgment one must give an account of the life lived whether good or bad (**Matt.12:35-36, 2Cor.5:9-11**). If good, according to God through Christ and His apostles, eternal life, and if bad eternal damnation, (**John 5:28-29; Rom.2:6-8; 2Thes.1:8-9 and Rev.21:7-8**). Seeing then, these things must and will happen, what must we do to be saved, according to the truth? (See **Acts 2:37-42; 8:35-39; 9:4-18; 16:14-15 and verses 30-34**)

There are those religious leaders who profess baptism, but different types of baptisms are professed, thereby advocating division. Just as the terms ways and faiths, which are different beliefs, is false doctrine (**John 17:17**), so are baptisms. Not only do the scriptures teach One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, but they also teach One Lord, which is **The One Way, One Faith, One Baptism** and One God (**John 14:6, Eph.4:4-6, Gal.3:27-29**). This oneness would make us all speak the same things, and there would be no division among us in the religious world (**1Cor.1:10; Phil.3:16-20**), thereby making us all One in Christ (**John 17:20-22; Rom.10:12**).

We believe according to scripture, most of what is practiced in the religious world today is contrary to the instructions left by Christ, and we believe this is motivated by GAIN. Take the money, prestige and vanity out, then, we’ll see who is left standing. The proof is in the pudding. This of course, is another lesson. Man strives to be different in faiths (which are beliefs, and or religions), in names, in doctrines, in practices, in traditions, and in baptisms. This is so like man. Man says more than one, and many, but Jesus Christ the Lord says ONE and FEW (**Matt.7:12-15; 22:14; Acts 4:12**). Who are we to believe? We best believe the one that will judge us (**John 5:26-29**), and by what he will judge us (**John 12:48**), even the apostle’s word (**John 17:20; 2Pet.3:2-3**), according to truth.

I hear this in the religious world today, "if you will just pray this prayer with me, and let Christ into your heart, you are saved." There is no scripture for that, so it is of man, and not of the truth (**Please read John 9:31**). What happened to baptism? Jesus Christ is Lord. He sets the rules, and He needs no help from man. Remember Christ was in the creation (John 1:1-14; 10:30; Col.1:12-17; Heb.1:1-8). He gave up his heavenly life to come down to this sinful world (John 5:20-24; 6:26-40; 8:28-32; 8:42-47); to live a suffering lifestyle that ended most cruelly on the cross, for man’s sake. His Father was pleased to bruise him throughout his life here, and even the cross for our sake (Isaiah 53:1-12). Through the shedding of His blood and water on the cross, man has the opportunity of soul salvation by the remission of sin through obedience (Matt.17:1-8; Rom.2:1-11; 6:17-23; 10:16-17 see James 1:21-27 and 2:14-26; 2Cor.10:1-7; 2Thes.1:1-10; Heb. 2:7-18; 5:1-14; 1Pet.1:22-25 and 2:1-5). This same Christ has been made the builder, Chief Corner Stone, the head of the body the church (Matt.16:13-18; 21:42; Acts 4:10-12; 1Cor.11:1-3; Eph.5:20-33; Col.1:1-29; 2:1-23; 1Pet.2:1-25). So again, the Lord doesn’t need our input so far as rules are concerned. We need him. What he needs from us is REPENTENCE of mind, and the OBEDIENCE to his word, through his apostles (Matt.28:16-20; 2Pet.3:1-18); that is if we want HIS GRACE and SALVATION (Acts 20:32; James 1:21-27). As was stated before, some that teach baptism teach different types, such as: pouring, sprinkling, immersing which is submersing. Remember, the truth says one baptism (**Eph.4:5**). There are scriptures backing immersing which is submersing, but none for pouring or sprinkling. As for infant baptism, we find no scriptural backing for such either, but rather scripture to the contrary. According to the truth, one must be taught (**Matt.28:18-20, 15:8-10, Rom.10:12-14-16 and 17**); must believe (**John 3:13-18; Rom.10:14; James 1:22; James 2:19-24**); must repent (**Luke 13:3**); must confess (**Rom.10:8-10**), to the point of accepting, and wanting to be

buried with Christ in baptism, for the remission of sin (**Mark 16:16, Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 22:15-16; Col.2:10-12**); thereby putting on CHRIST (Gal.3:26-29). This then makes us NEW SPIRITUAL CREATURES according to scripture (Rom. 12:1-2; 2Cor.5:16-17; 10:1-18; Eph.4:1-32; Col.3:1-17; 2Tim2:1-26). These are all impossible tasks for infants that know not even their names, let alone anything else. Some of us have read or heard this term, "out of the mouth of babes". Usually, babes cry when the sprinkling or pouring is being done. Maybe this should clue us that they do not want it or for sure, they do not understand it. Remember, one **MUST** understand what is going on to be right with God, according to the word which is **TRUTH**.

We must be careful when baptizing anyone, and for sure young ones. We must make sure that they truly understand and believe through thorough teaching, knowing what they are about to be a part of, knowing the responsibilities that goes with **the Christian lifestyle** (**Matt.16:23-27; Luke 9:22-26 and verses 57-62; John12:24-26 and 12:44-50 etc.**). For an example, when one has to be escorted and or carried by a parent or any one else for that matter, to be buried with Christ in baptism; or one that has to be made to go to worship, this should be a clue, that one might not be ready for such a step. We must be careful that it is the belief in Christ that motivates one. This means they must be ready to suffer for Christ's sake (**Phil.1:27-30; Heb.5:8-9**), and not because their sister, brother, friend, father, or mother etc., was baptized. Not even because of the wants of the parents, or anyone else, but because they are ready to suffer and live Christ so that death will be gain (**Phil.1:20-21**).

Why would anyone, especially those proclaiming Christianity, ignore the command of baptism? Is it because it is thought to be NOT Essential To Salvation? It is for the remission of sins. It is what puts one in Christ. It is how one put on Christ (**Acts 2:38 and verses 41-42; Rom.6:3-4; Gal.3:26-29**), and it also now; one of the many things that saves us, according to the truth (**1Pet.3:21-22**). To ignore Baptism or to administer it in any other fashion than what the scriptures teach, is false doctrine, and is leading precious souls in the wrong direction. To administer Baptism to anyone that is not taught, or is too young to be taught, thereby not able to believe, is false doctrine. To administer Baptism to anyone that will not hear, repent, and confess, is not of the Apostle's doctrine; thereby, being false. Baptism, just as all things pertaining to Christ, must be done by the instructions given by Christ through his Apostles, because when it is of man's instructions, it leads to many souls being lost. We must examine the scriptures (**Acts 17:11**), and ourselves to see if we are **in THE faith** (**2Cor.13:5**). We must remember that before conversion, Saul/Paul was a Pharisee born a Roman citizen. He strictly believed in the Old Law, which was given to the Jews by Moses (**Acts 22:3 and verses 27-28; 26:4-5; Gal.1:13-14; Phlp.3:4-7; Deut.4:44-45; 5:1-3 and John1:17-18**). After conversion, out of the Old Law, even Paul was baptized into Christ, washing away his sins (**Acts 9:18-20, Acts 22:3-16**). Paul also being one of our examples gives the order of things (**1Cor.11:1-3**). See also the Ethiopian eunuch (**Acts 8:29-39**). Cornelius, a devout man according to scripture, had to be taught and then be baptized just as **ALL** nations **MUST** do, (**Acts 10:1-6 verses 24-27 and verses 44-48; Matt.28:18-20**), to be right (righteous) with God, according to **the TRUTH**.

As always; please get your bibles and follow this study: **Is Baptism Essential To Salvation?**

We would like to take a few minutes of your time to address the most devastating issue in the world today. It has to do with the "saving" of our Souls. Of course, those who do not believe in God through Christ and his aposles, this has no value to them. It has no value because they don't believe in the Bible (scriptures), which in turn means, that they don't believe in Heaven (eternal happiness-Saved) or Hell (eternal torment-Damned). "**Mark 9:43** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:" "**Luke 16:22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

They can't believe in either because the world learned of both from the Bible (scriptures) and if you believe in one you have to believe in the other. I gave scriptures for Hell because there seems to be a problem with people believing in Hell, yet almost everyone believes in Heaven. As we read in the above scriptures the rich man died "and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments". He will not be the only one there. As a matter of fact, our Lord said most will end up there. "**Matt 7:13** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to (1)destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

**Definition: (1)destruction**-684 a) perishing, ruin, destruction b) the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell

Our purpose is for us, and all that we come in contact with, to be in that "few there be that find it, (eternal life)". In order to be in that number, we have a couple of appointments we "must" make. "**Heb 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" As with any appointment, there has to be preparation which is the purpose of this document. There is a lot of "false doctrine" being taught out there giving people a false sense of security that they will be one of the few there be that find it, (eternal life). There are those who have chosen positions (Bishops, Pastors, preachers, teachers) designated by God for the preparing of souls for the two most important appointments known to mankind. They are teaching a doctrine that says "all you have to do is believe in your heart and accept Jesus as your personal savior and you're saved." They also say, "You don't have to go to worship service, you can stay home, read your Bible and pray because the church is in your heart." Some teach that Baptism is not essential to salvation. Some teach that you need to be baptized, but if you don't, "it's OK, because it's just an outward showing of an inward feeling". We believe according to scripture the pre-mentioned doctrine above is "false doctrine" because, it goes against what's stated in the Bible (God's word) which is "**the Truth.**" "**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." We're not going to take any chances on anyone being unprepared for those appointments with the information we pass on. I say "pass on" because it will come from the Bible (God's word) which is "the Truth." **John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**Acts 11:26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called (1)Christians first in Antioch.

**Definition: (1)Christians**-5546 Christianos- from 5547; a Christian, i.e. **follower of Christ**: KJV-- Christian.

I don't think many would argue the fact that preparations for these appointments (death and the judgment) starts with being a Christian. Please note the above definition of the word Christian- i.e. follower of Christ. The Bible (the Word, which is the Truth) will show that one cannot be a Christian- i.e. follower of Christ without being "Baptized". For those who are teaching that "Baptism is not essential to salvation", are teaching false doctrine and those who believe it will be unprepared for these appointments (death and the judgment). Baptism has always been part of God's plan for "Christians" and John (who was the Baptizer) was chosen to be the forerunner, preparing the way for Christ who was to come in the flesh...

#### **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 11:10** For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. **11** Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the **(1)Baptist**: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Definition: (1)Baptist**-910 Baptistes- from 907; a baptizer, as an epithet of Christ's forerunner: KJV-- Baptist.

**Matt 3:13** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. **14** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? **15** And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. **16** And Jesus, **when he was baptized**, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Note the above scriptures how our Lord thought it necessary to seek out John to be baptized of him. He sought out John because John was a “Baptizer”. Then note how John was having a problem with this: “But John forbad him, saying, “I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?” If we understand the purpose of “baptism”, then we will have a better understanding why John was having a problem with “baptizing” our Lord. Most importantly, we will understand why it is **absolutely** an essential part of our preparation for those two appointments (death and the judgment).

**Acts 19:4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of **(1)repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

**Definition: (1)repentance**-3341 metanoia- a change of mind (heart), as it appears to one who repents of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done

Please note verse four, how John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance and look at the definition of the word repentance. The purpose of John’s baptism was to have the people change their beliefs and what they were doing; [See definition again-a change of mind (heart) as it appears to one who repents of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done]: that they should believe on him which should come after Him, Christ Jesus. Now knowing the purpose of John’s baptism, can we relate to why he was having this problem understanding the necessity of baptizing our Lord? Let’s ask ourselves why would it be necessary for Christ to be **baptized**? There was nothing he was doing or had done that needed changing (repentance).

**1 Pet 2:21** For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

We read in the above scriptures where he did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Our Lord went on to tell John why it was necessary for him (Our Lord) to be “Baptized” in the fifteenth verse, “**Matt 3:15** And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.” Since we know that our Lord was already righteous (“who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”), this was the example he was setting for all who were to follow him (Christian- i.e. follower of Christ). We should also note the sixteenth verse: “**16** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:” and seventeenth verse how after he was “Baptized” God said: “**17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

We have read about the example and now we will read about the commandments. **Yes, the word of God has commanded us to be “Baptized.”** Unlike the false doctrine that is being taught, we don’t have a choice. It reminds me of how Satan enticed sin from the very beginning ... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Gen 3:3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die:

Please note what’s going on today and let’s not make the same mistake. It will have us unprepared for our appointment (death and the judgment); therefore costing us our chance to be one of the few there be

that find it (eternal life). God told Adam and Eve “**Ye shall not eat of it** (the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden) **lest ye die** and Satan, **the serpent said**, Ye shall **not** surely die.” We all know what happened as a result of the one word (**not**). Our Lord Jesus has passed on God’s instructions through his apostles, to mankind concerning “Baptism”... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 28:16** Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. **17** And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Please note the instructions given by our Lord to his disciples: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them**...” We would have to conclude that anyone who is not following these instructions is not a disciple of Christ. Teach all nations and “Baptize” all nations. America is a nation. We are to be taught the Word of God and then after gladly receiving it be “Baptized”, (**Acts 2:41-42**). What is being taught today? Teaching all nations, yet baptizing them is (**not**) essential to salvation.

**Gen 3:24** So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Man was denied eternal life with God in the Garden of Eden (so he drove out the man) as a result of Satan using the word “**NOT**”. Let us not fall into that same trap of deception by believing that “Baptism is **NOT** essential to salvation”, causing us to be denied eternal life with God in Heaven!

**Acts 2:8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? **9** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, **10** Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues **the wonderful works of God.**(KJV)

**Acts 2:14** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the (1)remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Definition: (1)remission** of sins-859 aphasis-from 863; freedom; (figuratively) pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission.

**Please note the above scriptures** how Peter is doing “exactly” what our Lord said: teaching all nations and, baptizing them. Many different “Nations” had gathered together (“**9**. Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, **10**. Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

**11**. Cretes and Arabians...” and Peter began to teach (“**14**. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said...”)). Note what he was teaching (“**Acts 2:38**...be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”). Peter followed the instructions of our Lord Jesus and hereby we know that Peter was a (Christian- i.e. follower of Christ) teacher. Therefore, we must conclude that any teacher who does not follow this pattern “cannot” be a (Christian- i.e. follower of Christ) teacher. According to scripture, Cornelius was a devout man that feared God with all of his house; which gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always. His prayers and alms went up for a memorial before

God. They even received the Holy Ghost. You would **think** that all of these things would have made them right (righteous) with God, (see **“thought”** Prov.14:12 and 16:25; Isa.55:6-9). But they did not because Cornelius sent for the Apostle Peter, as he was told by the Lord to do. All that were present there, after they heard ALL that the Lord commanded the Apostle Peter and had even received the Holy Ghost; Peter yet commanded them to be BAPTIZED in the name of the Lord. This made them ALL, including the Apostle Peter, right (righteous) with God. Because they all had done at that time: what God had commanded. Because, Cornelius and those that were assembled, had SINS that had NOT been REMITTED (pardoned) by BAPTISM. ... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Acts 10:1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, **2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.** (KJV)

**Acts 10:4** And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. **5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:** **6** He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. **7** And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; **8** And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa. (KJV)

**Acts 10:24** And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. **25** And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. **26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.** **27** And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. (KJV)

**Acts 10:33** Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. (KJV)

**Acts 10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? **48** And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (KJV)

Please note why Peter told them to be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins. Note the definition of remission- pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission.** It is “Absolutely” necessary that “every one of us be Baptized” as Peter commanded, because “every one of us” have sinned: **“Rom 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” **“I Jn 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”. And verse **“10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Without the water there is no access to the cleansing power of the BLOOD of Christ Jesus, for they are in conjunction one with the other: **“John 19:32** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: **34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water.** **35** And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.” **“I Jn 5:5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? **6** This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. **7** For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. **8** And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. **10** He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth

not the record that God gave of his Son. **11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us **eternal life**, and this life is in his Son. **12** He that **(1)hath** the Son hath life; and he that **hath not** the Son of God **hath not life.**”

**Definition:** **(1)**He that **hath** the Son hath life-2192 echo (ekh'-o);including an alternate form scheo (skkeh'-o); used in certain tenses only); a primary verb; to hold (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or remote; such as possessions; ability, relation, or condition), 1) to have, that is, to hold; to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to regard or consider or hold as 4) to hold oneself to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to adhere or cling to, to be closely joined to a person or a thing: KJV-- be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, use, **continuity:****1.** The state or quality of being continuous. **2.** An uninterrupted succession or flow; a coherent whole. **3.a.** A detailed script or scenario consulted to avoid discrepancies.

The Sanctification and Cleansing of the body, the church with the WASHING of WATER, must be according to the WORD; which is Jesus Christ (John1:1; 1John5:7). “**Eph 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **24** Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands **in every thing.** **25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, **27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Without being buried with Christ in water by the word, there is no “circumcision of Christ made without hands”; there is no power, “operation” of God, and if no operation of God there is no “Baptism”: **Col 2:11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the (1)circumcision of Christ: 12 (2)Buried with him in (3)baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the (4)operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

### Definitions

**(1)**by the **circumcision** of Christ-4061 peritome-circumcised b) metaphorically: 1) used of Christians separated from the unclean multitude and truly consecrated to God 2) the extinction of passions and the removal of spiritual impurity.

**(2)Buried with him**-4916 sunthapto (soon-thap'-to);from 4862 and 2290; to inter in company with, i.e. (figuratively) to assimilate spiritually (to Christ by a sepulture as to sin), to bury together with; For all who in the rite of believer's baptism are plunged into the water, thereby declare that they put faith in the expiatory death of Christ for the pardon of their past sins. Therefore, Paul likens immersion to a burial by which the former sinfulness is buried, that is, utterly taken away: KJV-- bury with.

**(3)in baptism**-909 baptisimos (bap-tis-mos'); from **907**; ablution (ceremonial or Christian): KJV-- baptism, washing. **907** baptizo (bap-tid'-zo);from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: KJV-- Baptist, baptize, wash.

**(4)operation** of God 1753 energeia (en-erg'-i-ah); from **1756**; efficiency ("energy"): KJV-- operation, strong, (effectual) working. **1756** eneges (en-er-gace');from 1722 and 2041; active, operative: KJV-- effectual, powerful.

Without “Baptism” there cannot be any pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission of sins. To teach that one need not be “Baptized” would have one totally unprepared for those two appointments (death and the judgment). He will have died (death) in his sins and our Lord said: “**John 8:21** Then said

Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.” Then when we stand before God for that second appointment (the judgment) with those sins, the scriptures says: “**Rom 6:23** For the **(1)wages** of sin is **(2)death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Definitions: (1)wages**-3800 opsonion- metaphorically, wages: hire or pay of sin. **(2)death**-2288 thanatos- in the widest sense, death comprising all the miseries arising from sin, as well physical death as the loss of a life consecrated to God and blessed in him on earth, to be followed by wretchedness in hell

Please note the definition of those words. We’re being told that the pay for our sins will ultimately be **Hell (eternal torment-Death)**. We do have another option, **Heaven (eternal life-Saved)**:

**Rom.6:23**...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Please note that it is the gift of God and he says how he will “give” it: through Jesus Christ our Lord ... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Mark 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**Rom 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** 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 newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **6** 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.(KJV)

**Gal 3:27** For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**.

**1 Pet 3:21** The like figure whereunto even **(1)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:

**Note that in all the definitions of baptism, neither sprinkling nor pouring is found!**

**Definitions: (1)baptism**-908 baptisma (bap'-tis-mah); from **907; immersion, submersion** baptism (technically or figuratively): KJV-- baptism. c) used of Christian baptism; a rite **of immersion in water as commanded by Christ**, by which one after confessing his sins and professing his faith in Christ, having been born again by the Holy Spirit unto a new life, identifies publicly with the fellowship of Christ and the ekklesia....**907 baptizo (bap-tid'-zo)**; from a derivative of **911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet)**; used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: KJV-- Baptist, baptize, wash....**911 bapto (bap'-to)**; a primary verb; **to overwhelm, i.e. cover wholly with a fluid**; in the N. T. only in a qualified or specially, sense, or (by implication) to stain (as with dye): KJV-- **dip**.

After we have been **baptized into Christ** [following Christ’s example and command thereby becoming a **(Christian- i.e. follower of Christ)**], we then must assemble ourselves with other (Christians- i.e.

followers of Christ): “**Heb 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” This must be done “every” first day of the week for Lord’s Day Worship service whether in the homes see Rom.16:5; 1Cor.16:19-24; Col.4:15-16 and Phile. 1:2-3, buildings or outside. “**Acts 20:5** These going before tarried for us at Troas. **6** And we sailed away from Philippi **after the days of unleavened bread**, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. **7** And **upon the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.” ... **Ref. Scriptures:**

**Matt 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in my (1)name, there am I in the midst of them. (KJV)

**Col 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the **(1)name** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.(KJV)

**Definition: (1)name** of the Lord Jesus-3686 onoma (on'-om-ah);from a presumed derivative of the base of 1097 (compare 3685); a "name" (literally or figuratively) [**authority, character**] 2) the name is used for everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, that is, for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds etc. : KJV-- called, (+sur-) name (-d).

**John 4:1** When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, **2** (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples),(KJV)

**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word **were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.(KJV)

**Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **13** Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.(KJV)

**Acts 9:17** And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul**, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. **18** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was (1)baptized.(KJV)

**Definition: (1)baptized**-907 baptizo (bap-tid'-zo); from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: KJV-- Baptist, baptize, wash.

**Acts 22:12** And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, **13** Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, **(1)Brother Saul**, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. **14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. **15** For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. **16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.(KJV)

**Definition: (1)Brother Saul**-4549 Saoul (sah-ool'); of Hebrew origin [7586]; Saul (i.e. Shaul), **the Jewish name of Paul**: KJV-- Saul.

**1 Cor 1:13** **Is Christ divided?** was Paul crucified for you? or **were ye baptized** in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; **15** Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. **16** And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. **17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.(KJV)

**1 Cor 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. **2** Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. **3** But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ

is God.(KJV)

**Phil 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. **9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.(KJV)

Note here what the apostle Paul admonished the Church in Corinth to do, “**Examine** yourselves, whether ye be **in the faith;**” **NOT A FAITH OF THEIR CHOICE, LEST THEY BE reprobates,** see definition.

**2 Cor 13:5** **(1)Examine** yourselves, whether ye be **in the faith;** **(2)prove** your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be **(3)reprobates?** **6** But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.(KJV)

**Definitions:** **(1)Examine** yourselves-3985 peirazo (pi-rad'-zo); from 3984; **to test** (objectively), i.e. endeavor, **scrutinize, discipline:** KJV-- assay, examine, prove. **(2)prove** your own selves-1381 dokimazo (dok-im-ad'-zo); from 1384; **to test** (literally or figuratively); by implication, to approve: KJV-- allow, discern, examine, try. **(3)reprobates**-96 adokimos (ad-ok'-ee-mos); from 1 (as a negative particle) and 1384; **unapproved, i.e. rejected;** by implication, **worthless** (literally or morally): KJV-- **castaway,** rejected.

Dear readers remember as always, the purpose of these articles is to seek the TRUTH according to THE WORD, thereby exposing ERROR, for the purpose of **saving our souls.** We believe this is best done by definitions and the PREPONDERANCE OF SCRIPTURES; which is having superior weight, force, importance, or influence of SCRIPTURE. Again we believe this allows SCRIPTURE to INTERPRET SCRIPTURE, thereby allowing a better understanding on that topic. Again, thank you so much for your interest in the **WORD of TRUTH;** **GRACE** and **SALVATION;** John 17:17-21; Acts 20:29-32; James 1:21-25. After all it is our MAP to HEAVEN and away from HELL, and the **continuance in it,** is the **ONLY** thing that allows the man of God to be perfect, **2Tim.3:12-17!**

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