

**A believer receives our Heavenly Father's blessings when: he hears God's Word- determines to obey it- cheerfully acts- and expects the rewards of obedience.*

BAPTISM

I. Why worry about an ancient ritual like baptism?

A. Matthew 3:11-17 (Jesus was baptized)

B. Mark 16:15-16

C. John 3:1-5

D. I Peter 3:21

(Baptism and Salvation seem to be linked, but is baptism required for salvation? Romans 10:9&10)

*QUIZ QUESTION #1 -- Was the believing thief on the cross ever baptized?
Luke 23:39-43

II. What is baptism?

A. Websters -- A Christian sacrament (a formal religious act) signifying spiritual rebirth and admitting the recipient to the Christian community through the ritual use of water.

B. Vines (Greek Dictionary) -- Baptizma -- the process of immersion, submersion, and emergence. (Bapto -- to dip as in the dyeing of a garment or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another.

III. Why was (is) baptism practiced?

A. A reminder of God's Old Testament covenants.

1. Noahic -- he and his family passed through the water. (I Peter 3:18-22)

2. Abrahamic -- like circumcision -- baptism is a public sign of one's receipt of the new covenant. Gen. 17:1-11 & Col. 2:9-13

3. Mosaic -- Like the Israelites who fled Pharaoh, one passes through the water to escaped the bondage of the world. I Cor. 10:1-6

*QUIZ QUESTION #2 -- Water baptism is an outward and visible sign of the Holy Spirit baptism that occurs at conversion. True or False?

IV. Who should be baptized?

A. Matthew 28:19

B. Acts 8:26-38

C. Acts 16:31-34

*QUIZ QUESTION #3 -- Can Billy Graham baptize you in water?
In the Holy Spirit?

*2 Schools of Thought

1. Baptists -- Believers are to be baptized on the basis of their personal testimony.

1. Paedo -- Baptists -- Believers and their infants are to be baptized on the basis of God's direct command. Mark 10:13; Acts 2:37-41; I Cor. 7:14
(I cannot buy this logic, but many wonderful believers do.)

V. What about being re-baptized? (Baptized after you believe.)

A. My personal testimony.
Romans 14:22-23

VI. How are water baptism and spiritual baptism linked?

A. Romans 8:9

B. Eph. 4:4-6

VII. What mode of baptism should be practiced?

Immersion vs. Sprinkling

A. Acts 8:38-39 -- down into the water.

B. Romans 6:4 -- buried.

C. Gal. 3:27 -- clothed with Christ.

*Jesus came up out of the water -- Mark 1:9-10 (Pay your money and make your choice!)

VIII. What does baptism really mean?

A. Like the marriage ceremony, baptism is a public act of commitment. It signifies our belief in the resurrected Christ and our desire to depart from our old life and embark on a new, spirit filled life with Him.