

Choose This Day...

A Bible study designed to bring understanding and decision.

A Biblical Definition of Baptism

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Today's Baptismal ordinances are performed in a diversity of ways or not at all, depending on the denomination. To determine God's view of Baptism, we must turn to His word and discover what His plan for Baptism really is.

Opening prayer: Holy Father, we are searching for Your plan of baptism, why you instituted it, what it signifies and the proper manner in fulfilling this rite. Thank You that we have a sure word in which to turn, finding the answer to these questions. We want Your holy ways O Lord, not ways of popular devising. Please instruct us now, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Using the King James Bible, read each verse, filling in the missing words. Identify what each verse tells us about baptism.

1. *Matthew 3:11* "I indeed baptize you with water unto _____: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."
2. *Matthew 3:16* "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway _____: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
3. *Matthew 28:18-20* "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. __ ye therefore, and teach all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost:"
4. *Mark 1:4-5* "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the _____ of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, _____ their sins."
5. *Mark 10:38-40* "But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the __ that I drink of; and with the _____ that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized. "
6. *Mark 16:16* "He that _____ and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
7. *Acts 2:37-38* "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, _____ and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall _____ the gift of the Holy Ghost."

8. *Romans 6:2-6* "... How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are _____ 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 _____ of life."
9. *Galatians 3:27-29* "For as many of you as have been baptized into _____ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male or female: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and _____ according to the promise."
10. *Colossians 2:10-13* "And ye are _____ in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 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 circumcision of Christ: 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. And you, being _____ in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having _____ you all trespasses;"
11. *John 5:28-29* "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of _____; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of _____"
12. *John 3:23* "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was _____ there: and they came, and were baptized."

From God's word studied above, can you find the correct missing words in the list below to complete this fundamental principle?

That baptism is an ordinance of the Christian church, to _____ faith and repentance, —an ordinance by which we _____ the resurrection of Christ, as by this act we show our faith in his _____ and _____, and through that, in the resurrection of all the saints at the last day; and that __ other mode more fitly represents these facts than that which the _____ prescribe, namely, _____.

burial / immersion / commemorate / no / follow / resurrection / Scriptures

Closing prayer: Our Father in heaven, again we are amazed at the clarity of Your word on these issues. Forgive us Lord for our ignorance and allow us a true baptism, following faith and repentance, fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might serve You in completeness. We, too, desire to be a part of the one body, the eternal family of Yours. We long to be called from the grave because You have called us your own. All praise to the Father and Son, in the precious name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Further Study: Luke 7:29; John 1:33; John 4:2; Acts 1:5; Acts 8:12-22; Acts 8:26-28; Acts 9:17-20; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 11:15-18; Acts 19:6; Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 1:13-18; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4-6; Hebrews 6:1-2; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Luke 3:3; **John 11:15**

Answers: 1. repentance 2. out of the water 3. Go, baptizing 4. remission, confessing 5. cup, baptism 6. Believeth 7. Repent, receive 8. death, newness 9. Christ, one, heirs 10. complete, dead, forgiven 11. life, damnation 12. much water