



Preaching God's Grace, Teaching God's Truth

DISCIPLESHIP I

Lesson 3

Baptism

"We have suffered from the preaching of cheap grace. Grace is free, but it is not cheap. People will take anything that is free, but they are not interested in discipleship. They will take Christ as Saviour but not as Lord."

- Vance Havner

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LESSON 3:**BAPTISM****“Now That I Am Saved, Where Do I Start?”**

Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This lesson is intended to give the Bible's clear and definite teaching on the subject, so that the saved individual understands perfectly what God's intention is regarding baptism.

I. Why does God instruct us to be baptized?

A. Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be baptized; it takes no special talents or efforts.

B. Jesus set the example himself by submitting to baptism before he began his public ministry. See **Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22**.

C. In **Matthew 3:13-15**, it is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. In verse 15, he said, “... *Suffer (allow) it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.*” This point of submission and obedience is the **single most important** thing to realize regarding baptism.

D. Other Bible characters that submitted to baptism after salvation:

- a) The Ethiopian eunuch - **Acts 8:36-39**
- b) The Apostle Paul - **Acts 9:18**
- c) The Philippian jailer and his house - **Acts 16:25-33**

II. What is the purpose of baptism?

A. Several types of baptism are mentioned in the Bible. In each case, the physical baptism is a picture of a spiritual truth. The important point to consider here is the picture portrayed by baptism.

B. **Romans 6:1-7** (specifically verses 3 and 4) shows the three purposes of baptism:

- a) It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- b) It is a public testimony of the new convert's identification with Jesus Christ through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, which is how the individual was saved. It identifies him or her with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) It also identifies you with the body of believers. Someone who has trusted the Lord for their salvation will not be ashamed to let others know (**Romans 10:11**). You identify yourself as a follower of Jesus Christ and you share a common bond with them - publicly proclaimed through you being baptized.

III. Who should be baptized?

A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian Eunuch in **Acts 8:36-39**. In verse 39, the eunuch asked, "*what doth hinder me to be baptized?*" and Philip answered with the condition of baptism in verse 37, "*...If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.*" Then the eunuch's response sealed the matter, "*... I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*"

B. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation found in **Romans 10:9, 10**:

- a) Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- b) Confession that Christ is Lord and Saviour.
- c) There are NO cases of baptism for anyone but believers.

C. Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation include:

1) *Acts 8:12*

2) *Acts 18:8*

IV. What is the method of baptism?

- A. Again, *Acts 8:26-39* gives the clearest example. In verses 38 and 39, both Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water, following the eunuch placing his belief in Jesus.
- B. In *Matthew 3:16*, Jesus was baptized in the same manner.
- C. As seen previously, baptism is a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The biblical method of baptism is complete immersion underwater. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled - no one can be buried by just sprinkling dirt on them.

V. How important is it to be baptized?

- A. Baptism is **NOT** essential for salvation. *Ephesians 2:8, 9* makes it clear a man is saved by grace through faith without works, and baptism is a work.
- B. Baptism **IS** essential for service to God and spiritual growth. *Matthew 28:19, 20* ("the Great Commission") proves that it is essential. Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission and it precedes discipleship.
- C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, they must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience - baptism. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in the future points.

VI. Basic Questions

A. Where should I be baptized?

Since baptism is a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ, most often it will be done publicly, in front of the local church. Many times, people will be baptized in creeks or rivers - Jesus himself was baptized in the Jordan River. The actual place of baptism is not important. The act of public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ is the important point. Baptism is a way to tell people that you have repented and placed your faith in Jesus Christ. It's like preaching a sermon without saying a word!

Romans 1:16; Romans 9:33, 10:11

B. Why don't people always get baptized after getting saved?

If everyone who has "repented and placed their faith in Jesus Christ" is commanded by God to be baptized, why would some people choose not to be baptized? Here are some possibilities:

1. They are not really saved - ***1 John 2:19; Luke 6:46***
2. They are saved but don't realize their need to be baptized (they haven't been discipled)
3. They are saved but are deliberately disobeying God - ***Luke 6:46***
4. They are saved but are feeling ashamed of God - ***Mark 8:38***
5. They are saved but are fearful (lots of reasons) - ***2 Timothy 1:7, 8***

Lesson 3 Review - Baptism

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized?

2. In ***Matthew 3:13-15***, Jesus was baptized to demonstrate his

_____ and _____

to God and his plan. Jesus fulfilled this before he began his

_____.

3. List three other men who were baptized after salvation in the New Testament:

A.

B.

C.

4. What are the purposes for baptism found in ***Romans 6:3, 4***?

A.

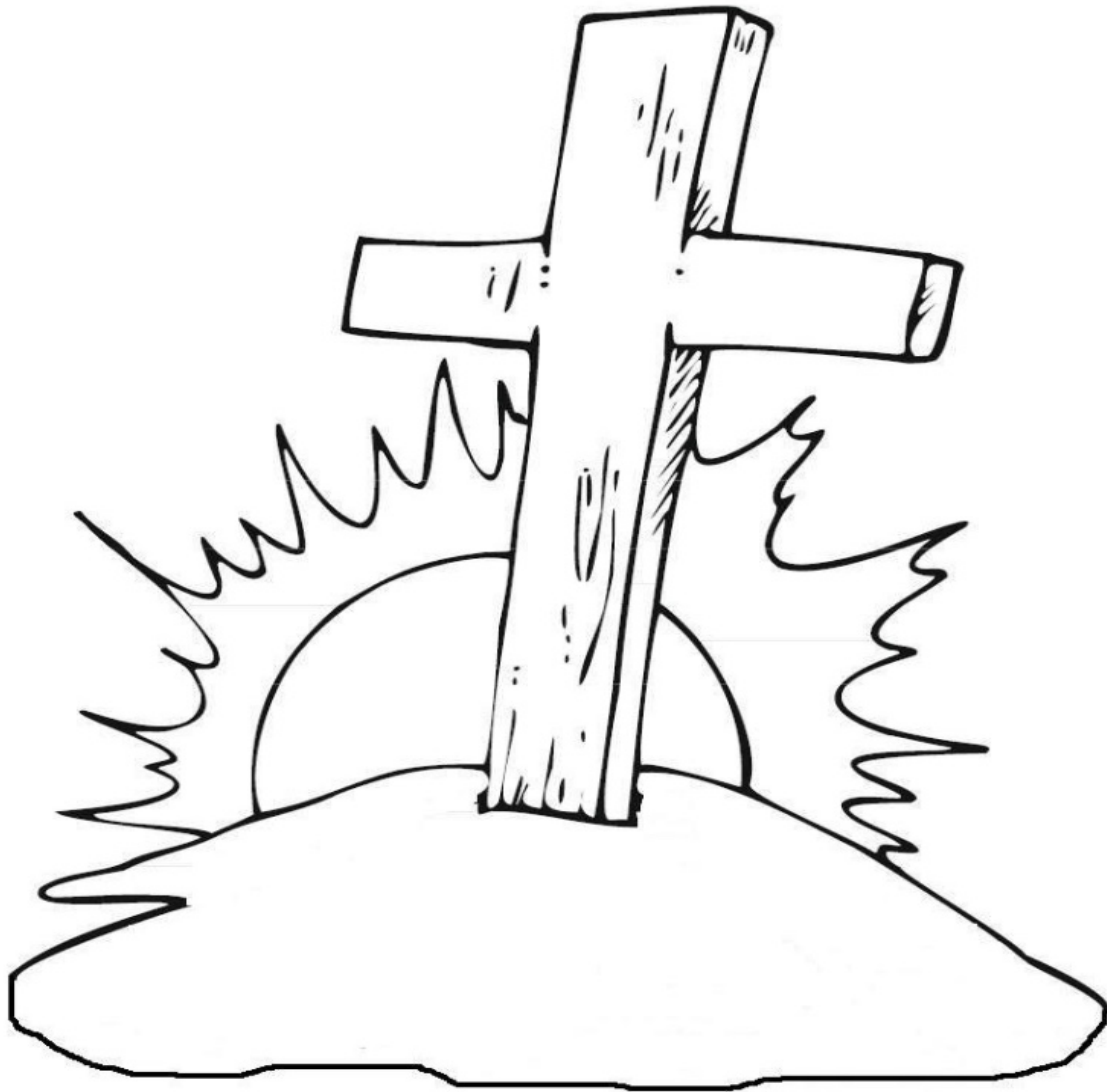
B.

C.

5. In ***Acts 8:36-39***, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized. What were these two requirements?
 - A.
 - B.
6. How do we know that the Ethiopian eunuch and Jesus were not baptized by sprinkling of water?
 - A.
 - B.
7. Baptism by complete immersion in water is a picture of what?
8. Baptism is essential in order for the Christian to _____ and _____. Also, one must be willing to submit to baptism so they can be _____ to follow Jesus Christ.
9. Is baptism essential for salvation? (give scripture reference)
10. Have you been biblically baptized?
11. If not, what is keeping you from being obedient to the Lord?
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Romans 5:12; John 3:3; 1 John 1:9



Ephesians 6:10, 11

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Go Tell It on the Mountain

1. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born and brought us
our salvation that blessed us Christmas Morn.

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Be Patient

Be patient, be patient, don't be in such a hurry

When you get impatient, you'll only start to worry

Remember, remember, that God is patient too

And think of all the times when others have to wait for you

O Be Careful Little Eyes

1. O be careful little eyes what you see
O be careful little eyes what you see
For the Father up above is looking down in love.
O be careful little eyes what you see.

2. O be careful little ears what you hear
O be careful little ears what you hear
For the Father up above is looking down in love.
O be careful little ears what you hear.

3. O be careful little mouth what you say
O be careful little mouth what you say
For the Father up above is looking down in love.
O be careful little tongue what you say.

4. O be careful little hands what you do
O be careful little hands what you do
For the Father up above is looking down in love
O be careful little hands what you do.

5. O be careful little heart who you trust
O be careful little heart who you trust
For the Father up above is looking down in love
O be careful little heart who you trust.

Ephesians 6:14

*"Stand therefore, having your **loins girt about with truth...**"*



BELT OF TRUTH