

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Part 1: "Baptism"

INTRODUCTION - With This Ring, I Thee Wed

- Jesus heals as a _____ that the greater miracle of _____ has taken place. (**Matthew 9:2-8**)
- Like the miracle of healing in **Matthew 9**, baptism is an external sign of an internal reality; a visible symbol of an invisible truth.

The Word On Baptism

Baptizo: to immerse; to dip or dunk under; to plunge into.

Baptism Before Jesus

- Baptism was originally a regularly repeated, _____-administered, Jewish purification rite based on **Leviticus 15**.
- It was also used as a one-time cleansing initiation for _____ Converts to Judaism.
- In order to receive forgiveness for sins, animal sacrifices were still needed.
- John's baptism was a spiritually _____, counter-temple statement, offering complete cleansing and forgiveness apart from the religious system of ritual and sacrifice.

Mark 1:4-5

Baptism & The Jesus Movement

- John promised that Jesus would baptize, not only with water, but with the _____. (Jesus made good on that promise.)
Matthew 3:11; John 1:29-34; Acts 1:5
- Jesus carried on with John's irreligious water baptism, but made his _____ and _____ the centre of the symbol.
John 4:1-2; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12

- Jesus commands his disciples to keep baptism as the central symbol of _____ to Christ. **Matthew 28:18-20**
- Christian baptism is offered only to _____. **Acts 2:41; 8:12**
- Baptism is _____ the New Covenant version of circumcision. **Romans 2:28-29**
- Christian baptism is a _____ experience. **Ephesians 4:4-6**
- Christian baptism symbolizes our identification not only with Christ, but also with his _____, which is why it is always administered by another believer. **1 Corinthians 12:13**

Also see: **Acts 2:41; 8:12, 26-40; 9:18; 16:13-15, 31-34; 19:1-5**

Controversial Passages

Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 15:29; 1 Peter 3:18-22 vs.
Romans 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; Luke 22:39-43; Acts 10:44-48

Baptism & The Meeting House

- Anabaptist...
- Brethren In Christ...
- Church Membership...
- Common Objections...
 - But I was already "baptized" as an infant.
 - But I don't want to insult my Christian heritage.
 - But aren't you making too big a deal about baptism?

CONCLUSION - Saying "I Do"

Acts 16:31-34

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What has been your own experience, if any, with Christian baptism?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read the story of one person's baptism in **Acts 8:26-40**. a) What verse stands out to you the most from this passage? Why? b) Would you describe the Ethiopian as being "religious"? Why? What lesson can we learn from this? c) What do **verses 30-31** tell us about the role God wants us to play in evangelism (and in helping people understand the Bible's message)? d) Although Phillip took the initiative to instruct the Ethiopian, who takes the initiative in the resulting baptism? Is there a lesson in this? e) See **verse 36**. Why did they need to find enough water to be *baptized* in? Why not use whatever water would have already been on board at that time? f) What about the baptism of the Ethiopian points toward the *community* aspect of Christian baptism?

SO WHAT?...

4. Notice that, with the Spirit's encouragement, Phillip takes the initiative in this conversation. Have you ever taken the initiative in talking to someone else about Jesus? If so, what was it like? If not, why not?
5. Do you have a "next step" to take regarding baptism or evangelism? Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 15/22, 2004