

***NOW THAT YOU'RE BORN AGAIN...AND YE SHALL BE MY WITNESSES***

LESSON 7 IN THE SALVATION SERIES

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Though many teach baptism as a way of salvation, baptism is actually an outward show of a work that has already been done. Many people are baptized each week, but never embrace the “born-again” experience. We learned in previous lessons that salvation is a confession. The life of the born-again believer is reflected in his new nature as he begins to take on the nature of Christ. Baptism is not to be mistaken for regeneration. The regeneration process is what occurs once an individual earnestly receives Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior. It is an inner work, while baptism is an outward experience. This is not to take away from the spiritual aspects of the baptismal experience, but just to emphasize that baptism is not to be used as a means of salvation. Baptism is for Believers.

**Scripture Text: Matthew 3:13-17**

*13Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

*14But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?*

*15And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.*

*16And 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:*

*17And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

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**John 1**

*23He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

*24And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.*

*25And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?*

*26John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;*

*27He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.*

*28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

*29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

*30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.*

*31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.*

*32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.*

*33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.*

*34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*

### **SYMBOLIC ASPECTS OF BAPTISM:**

1. **Christ's Death:** *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)*
2. **Burial:** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...(Romans 6:4)*
3. **Resurrection:** *...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. (Romans 6:4)*

In baptism, you are making a public confession of your regenerated life—that you have died to your old life and risen with the newness of life in Christ Jesus.

### **WHY SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?**

1. God commands baptism: *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)*
2. It is the Believer's prescribed method of outwardly showing an inward work that has taken place in his life. *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. (Acts 16:31, 33)*
3. Baptism unites us as Believers. *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, confessing their sins. (Matthew 3:5)*