

## Fisher's Foundations WATER BAPTISM

### Lesson 5

#### THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLASS:

Is to furnish the learner with an increased spiritual understanding of, and a better grasp of the significance of scriptural water baptism, to the end that they will experience it first hand in the local church.

**"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).**

#### INTRO:

In the Old Testament we see God taking Noah and his family through the flood as a type of water baptism. We also see God taking Moses and the children of Israel through the Red Sea as a type, when He, through Moses, delivered them from Egyptian bondage. According to Hebrews 6:2, one of the foundations principles is the "**doctrine of baptisms**" (plural), thus indicating the Lord's plan for you is to experience more than one baptism.

In the past, Evangelicals gave great emphasis to being baptized into the Body of Christ, "You must be born again!" The Church of Christ gave primary emphasis to water baptism. And the Pentecostals gave great emphasis to being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Three different but wonderful pieces of the cake, but God wants you to have your cake and eat it too, so to speak – the whole cake. He wants all three baptisms emphasized, never just one to the exclusion of the others.

#### I. NORMAL INDUCTION

The Bible deals with water baptism, both by example and by direct commandment. Water baptism is only for Christians that are born from above and it is still part of the righteous induction into Christ's Church. Many have been water baptized as infants, and with all due respect, gain a wet head and smiley faced parents. But latter when they meet Jesus and become real Christians, they get blessed and supernaturally set free in full immersion baptism like Christ did.

Water baptism doesn't save you or make you more saved, but it is an outward picture of an inward reality. It's one of your first steps of obedience and signifies the death and burial of your old life, along with your resurrection into a new life. This step initiates, you giving witness for Jesus as an act of public profession of faith.

Today there is no stigma attached to being baptized. In fact in some circles it's even fashionable. This was not the case in the days of the early Church. In those days a Roman officer might attend, write down the names of those in the water. Property was confiscated, citizenship was revoked, some were imprisoned and some even gave their lives to be a witness in this way.

## II. WATER BAPTISM AS OBEDIENCE TO FAITH

Faith has been defined as an attitude of believing what God has said, and then obeying Him by acting upon it. For the New Testament believer, faith is always a natural and a corresponding response. **"But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works"** (James 2:18).

- A. Jesus Himself was immersed in the waters of baptism. **"When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened"** (Luke 3:21).
- B. Jesus Christ and the Apostles of the Lamb commanded water baptism. Even though spiritual regeneration is to precede it, every Christian should be baptized in fulfillment of Matthew 28:19! Words are important, but God is more interested in what is going on in your heart, rather than in the exact wording.

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"** (Matthew 28:19).

**"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'"** (Acts 2:38).

**Read:** Acts 2:41; 8:12, 13 and 36; 19:3-5; Mk. 16:16 and 1 Jn. 5:3

- Q&A 1. Tell in your own words why only Christians that are born from above should be water baptized.

## III. THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM

- A. It's the burial of our **"old life"** that we lived after the flesh. According to Ephesians 2:5, man, because of his sinful nature, is **"dead"** in sin. If he repents of his sin and accepts Jesus Christ by faith, he is then **"quickened,"** or given a new life just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. Water baptism becomes an affirmation and reference point of this inner resurrecting transformation for every believer.

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ" (Colossians 2:11).

Q&A 2.                      What is meant by the terms "old life" and "after the flesh" and how do these terms relate to you getting water baptized?

#### IV.     THERE IS A REASON FOR WATER BAPTISM

Read Romans 6:1-14 and notice the crystal clarity in which it conveys how God does not intend for His children to continue on in sin. God enables the Christian to separate himself from his "**old life of sin,**" and deny their "**fleshly nature**" which according to the Bible, was "**dead in sin.**" He enables the righteous to then walk in the newness of God's life. There are three steps in this transformation from the sin-dominated life to a life dominated by righteousness in Christ. According to this passage, you need to **Know, Reckon, and Yield.**

1. **Know** – that your old man has been crucified with Christ and is buried in the waters of baptism. **"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin"** (Romans 6:6).
2. **Reckon** – or count on the fact, that because it has been buried, your fleshly nature should never rule over your soul (mind, will and emotions) or spirit again. **"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 6:11).
3. **Yield** – or give, yourself (body, soul and spirit) not to sin, Satan or this world's system, but to God daily. **"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God"** (Romans 6:13).

Q&A 3. In your own words explain the three steps (listed in Romans 6) which enable the believer to avoid sin and walk in the "**newness of life.**"

Q&A 4. Do you personally believe that water baptism is a life changing identification with Jesus' death burial and resurrection? Do you believe getting baptized will help you in your walk?

Q&A 5. Since you accepted Christ, have you had the opportunity to be water baptized in obedience to the Scriptures? If not, would you like to do so?