

Special Topical Study on the Doctrine of Baptism "A New Life"

[Return to the Word MP3](#)

For a homework assignment the teacher in an elementary school class asked each student to make a drawing of something that they loved about their mother.

The next day a young girl brought the following picture to her class...



Along with the picture, the mother of the young girl included the following note to the teacher of the class.

Dear Ms. Davis,

I want to be very clear regarding my child's picture that she brought to class today. This is NOT a picture of me as a dancer on a pole in a strip bar.

I work at Home Depot and I had recently told my daughter how much money we had made at the Home Depot during a recent snowstorm.

*This drawing by my daughter is of me.... selling snow shovels to our customers.
Mrs. Harrington*

In life, it is very important to make sure that we have things clarified for us before we jump to conclusions...

Today after our service, we are going to meet at Clear Creek, where we will all gather together and witness those who will be baptized.

☞ **Before we do so**, I wanted to clarify for you what Baptism is all about and what it means to the Lord and to you, when you go into the water and come out again.

☞ **Every step** of our life with Jesus is a walk of faith.

- ☞ **Everything** we receive from Him, is by faith.
- ☞ **Going into the water** is to make a commitment to Jesus and is something that He takes very seriously.
- ☞ **It is something** that each of us who do it, should do so completely informed about what it means.

One day, Jesus was seen coming down to the Jordan river where John the Baptist was taking people into the water to be baptized.

Matthew 3:1-17

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

2 and saying, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the LORD;

***Make His paths straight.’**”*

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

6 and **were baptized** by him in the Jordan, **confessing their sins**.

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

First principle, John the Baptist baptism was for the repentance of sins, to prepare people for the coming of Jesus and for the complete salvation.

While John is baptizing people for the repentance of their sins, Jesus comes down to the Jordan river, Did Jesus need the baptism for the confession of his sins? No.

Matthew 3

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us **to fulfill** all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw **the Spirit** of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly **a voice** came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John’s baptism was a baptism for the repentance of sins, to prepare people to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

- ☞ **John the Baptist** is an Old Testament Prophet, in fact he is the last Old Testament Prophet.

Matthew 11:11-13

11 “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but **he who is least in the kingdom of heaven** is greater than he.

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

13 For **all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.**

- ☞ **Therefore**, John the Baptist’s Baptism is Old Testament, it was to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Matthew 11:10

(**Jesus Said**) For this is he of whom it is written: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who **will prepare Your way** before You.’

Johns coming was predicted in the book of Isaiah:

Isaiah 40:3

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

John himself when asked if he was the promised Messiah said “No, I am the one who is to prepare the way, and then John quoted from Isaiah:

John 1:19-23

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

23 John the Baptist said: “I am” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the LORD,’ ’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

This is important that we understand this, because John’s baptism was not the same baptism that you are going to take part in tomorrow.

- ☞ **John’s baptism** was to prepare hearts for the moment when Jesus would come, so that they would be able to receive Him.
- ☞ **The actual act of baptism** in the water did not save those who went in to the water, it was to prepare their hearts for Jesus.
- ☞ **When those** who had partaken of John’s Baptism came to Jesus and accepted Him as their Savior, **it was then that they were saved.**

After Jesus came, John the Baptist ministry of baptism to prepare people for Jesus was no longer necessary. When the people came to John, he instead pointed to them to Jesus.

John 3:23-30

23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And **they came and were baptized.**

24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification.

26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, (**Jesus**) to whom you have testified—behold, **He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!**"

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, "I am not the Christ," but, 'I have been sent before Him.'

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

30 **He must increase, but I must decrease.**

John's work was now complete. His ministry was to prepare people for Jesus.

As the people now came to John, he sent those who came to him, to Jesus and told them that "Those who believe in Jesus have everlasting life, those who do not believe do not have eternal life..."

John 3:31-36

31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

36 **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**"

Luke gives us a little more detail by describing what John actually was telling the people that came to him for baptism, to repent of their former sins, and by repentance, to begin to do righteousness.

Luke 3:10-16

10 So the people asked John the Baptist, saying, "What shall we do then?"

11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not,

16 John answered, saying to all, “**I indeed baptize you with water;** (For repentance) but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

John speaks of the fact that Jesus ministry of salvation is greater than John’s ministry of baptism for repentance.

The baptism that a person partakes of tomorrow, after they have already received Jesus as their Lord and Savior is different from John’s baptism.

Romans 6:3-5

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death?**

4 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.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

The first thing that a person must do is come to Jesus, repent of their sins and receive Jesus into their heart as Lord and Savior.

Then as an outward sign to the world of their new faith in Jesus, they go into the water and are Baptized.

John’s Old Testament baptism for repentance is no longer necessary. Today, baptism happens after acceptance of Jesus.

Tomorrow when you go into the water, here is what you should be saying in your Baptism:

- ☞ *“I have died to my old life being led by my flesh.”*
- ☞ *“When I go into the water, I am publicly stating that I no longer intend on being led by my flesh, but intend to be led by the Spirit of God.”*
- ☞ *“I am identifying my life with Jesus death on the Cross, and I also am being buried in the water, and coming out again into a newness of life” (v 4)*

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...”

Many have been confused by what Jesus said in Mark chapter 16:

Mark 16:15-16

15 And Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

They read the first part of verse 16: “He who is baptized will be saved...”

They assume that they must be Baptized as a condition of salvation...

But they miss what Jesus said in the second part of verse 16: “He who does not believe will be condemned...”

Notice that in the second part of the statement by Jesus, not believing the person shall be condemned, Jesus does not include, “And is not baptized”.

Salvation comes first, belief in Jesus sacrifice, then afterward, Water baptism is a voluntary act of those who have already believed, to make a public statement of what they intend to do with the rest of their life now that they believe in Jesus.

Notice that Peter makes the statement that Baptism is only a picture of what has already happened by the power of Jesus death and resurrection.

1 Peter 3:21

And this is **a picture of baptism**, which now saves you by the power of Jesus Christ’s resurrection. **Baptism is not a removal of dirt from your body**; it is an appeal to God from a clean conscience.

In the Book of Acts, Peter says that Step one is to turn from your sins Step two is to turn to Jesus Christ, then Step three is to be baptized...

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Each of you must **turn from your sins** and **turn to God**, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If what some say is true, that baptism is necessary for salvation, along with faith in Jesus Christ, then Paul did not know this or understand it:

1 Corinthians 1:17

For **Christ did not send me to baptize**, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

Paul says that the Lord did not send him to baptize, but to lead people to Jesus Christ...

If baptism was a requirement for salvation, then Paul would have stated this here. Instead he makes it clear that Jesus did not send Paul to baptize.

When a person comes to Jesus for Salvation, it is because they have heard about the sacrifice that He has made for them for their sins on the Cross.

- ☞ **They have been told** that in order to receive the forgiveness of their sins they must publicly acknowledge Jesus as their own Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

When you ask Jesus for Salvation, you are making Him your Savior, the one who is responsible for your eternal life.

- ☞ **First**, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner.
- ☞ **Second**, you are acknowledging that you are willing to turn from your sins, to Jesus Christ.
- ☞ **Third**, by faith, of your own free will, you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, and ask Him to be your Savior.

In this prayer to Jesus to ask Him for salvation, you must also be acknowledging that Jesus will from this point on, be Lord of your life.

- ☞ **To make Jesus Lord of your life**, you are acknowledging that Jesus will be the one who is the master or boss over the rest of your life.
- ☞ **That you intend to allow Jesus** to have the control over your life and do with your life as He decides.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**

20 For **you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

So in just a couple hours, when you come down to the waters of Clear Creek, **you are coming to be Baptized because** you want what Paul wanted in Galatians 2:20

- ☞ **To be identified** with the crucified Jesus, that His Cross is where all of your sins were paid for.
- ☞ **That from the moment** you go into the water, it will no longer be you who live, but Jesus living in you and through you.
- ☞ **The rest of your physical life** in your flesh, will be by faith and trust in every word of the Word of God.

Before we go to Clear Creek for the Baptism, as we have already learned, the first step is to give your life to Jesus Christ...

- ☞ **To Believe** and Accept that Jesus death paid for your sins.
- ☞ **To ask Jesus** to forgive your sins.
- ☞ **To invite Jesus** into your heart to be your Lord and Savior.

If there is anyone here this morning that has never personally invited Jesus into their heart and you are not sure if Jesus is your Savior yet... We want to give you that opportunity to settle this issue in your life, once and for all.

Matthew 10:32-33

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

If you are not willing to publicly confess that you believe that Jesus is your Savior, you do not have eternal life.

If you do confess Jesus as your Savior, then the Word of God promises that you have the forgiveness of your sins, and you have eternal life.

The next step is to go with us to Clear Creek and go into the water where you no longer live, but for the rest of your life, it will be your desire to live for Jesus...

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