

# Baptism

# The first Bible baptisms were practiced by John the Baptist

- Matthew 3.1-12
- Mark 1.1-4
- Luke 3.1-4
- John 1.28-34
- His mode was immersion
- His message was repentance

- Math.3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:
- Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

- His meaning was symbolic
- He demanded fruit worthy of the repentance they professed. Matthew 3.8
- He also saw the work of Christ predicted in his baptism. Matthew 3.11; Mark 1.8; Luke 3.16
- John 1.24-33
- The Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism. Matthew 3.13-17
- Jesus was baptized because He identified with sinners, not because He had any sin of His own.

# Jesus and the disciples baptized

- John 4.1-3
- The meaning of the word teaches us the mode: immersion
- The use of the word teaches us about identification: they were baptizing disciples
- (for more about the identifying quality of the word baptism, see Mark 10.38-39)
- And the way Jesus responded teaches us that he wasn't competing with John

## Prior to the Crucifixion and Resurrection

- Baptism by immersion was practiced by John the Baptist and Jesus
- It identified people as followers
- It is never said to work any spiritual virtue or grace. Jesus, the Savior, never baptized. If baptism was a means of salvation, why wouldn't the Savior baptize?

It is a task given to the Church

- Matthew 28.19 / Mark 16.15-16 / Luke 24.45-48
- Acts 2.38 is the first Church baptism

# Issues and questions concerning baptism

- Is baptism a saving ordinance?
- No.
- I Peter 3.15-22
- The Great Commission places salvation first. Matthew 28.19
- All baptisms in the Bible came after a profession of faith in Christ



- Should babies be baptized?
- If baptism doesn't save, why should they?
- No babies were baptized in the NT.
- Acts 16.31-34 never even hints there were babies there.
- Some believe that infants should be baptized, saying that baptism is the NT counterpart to circumcision. Colossians 2.11-12

- Circumcision was a symbol of being part of the physical covenant community, Acts 7.8
- And it was a visible symbol of an inward reality. Romans 4.10-12
- But Abraham's circumcision didn't bring him faith.
- Circumcision reflects a physical relationship, baptism reflects a spiritual relationship

- Is immersion the only acceptable form of baptism?
- All Bible baptisms are immersion:  
Matthew 3.16; Mark 1.5; John 3.23;  
Acts 8.36-38
- The word means “to dip”
- It’s Spiritual or metaphorical uses suggest immersion. Matthew 20.22-23;  
Romans 6.3-4; I Corinthians 10.2