

Lesson 18: Water Baptism

Lesson Introduction

Now some of you aren't familiar too much with the church of Christ. They are dogmatic about water baptism saying, if you are not water baptized, you are not saved. I have had them before in my youth group. One night a big group of Church of Christ people decide to come to challenge me on baptism. Well it is just like the Lord planned it because I was covering just what I'm covering tonight.

So I started out with the story of the thief on the cross and said you know it is funny he did not get water baptized, but Jesus said, "This day you will be with me in paradise" (Lk 23:39-43). It was exciting because I gave an invitation to trust Christ and every one of the young people raised their hands to receive Christ. So of course they were never allowed to come back to my youth work. But I think a lot of them got saved, I'm sure all of them didn't but it was exciting teaching them the word.

If you have to be water baptized to be saved then salvation is not a gift, and it is not by grace. If you have to do anything to be saved other than trust Jesus, what he did on the cross then salvation is not a gift.

What other churches believe in water baptism for salvation? Well the Roman Catholic Church does. They believe that if you are not water baptized, you are not saved. They believe that if a baby is not water baptized the baby cannot possibly go to heaven. Many mothers get stressed out on this, and yet no child ever in the Bible was ever baptized.

Do you have to be water baptized to be saved? Well you know that we believe in water baptism, by immersion. It is extremely important for a Christian, but that it's not for salvation.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 18: Water Baptism

Topic 1: The Meaning of Baptism

- Its Origin and Use

- Its Real Meaning

- Its Scriptural Meaning

Topic 2: Passages Mentioning Baptism

- Acts 19:1-7

- Romans 8:9

Topic 3: What Baptism Saves Us?

- Spirit Baptism

- Water and Baptism

- Baptism and Cleansing

- Baptism and Living Water

Topic 4: Baptism and Dangerous Waters

- Noah's Flood

- Paul's Shipwreck

Topic 5: Not Sent to Baptize

Topic 6: Baptism as an Ordinance

Topic 1: The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism was more dangerous for someone in the first century than it is for Christians in America today. It was a testimony that someone was leaving what was their previous spiritual belief up until that time in their life and living a new life as a Christian. This often offended the person's family and neighbors. Often it put their life in danger. Baptism is still a strong witness for following Jesus' teachings, but it is not a factor in salvation.

Topic 1: The Meaning of Baptism

Its Origin and Use

Now I want us to look at the meaning of baptism. We have three words for baptism: baptize, baptism and baptisma. It's on three Greek words. Now you don't have to be a linguist to understand that this was not a translation. It was a transliteration. They did not translate. That is the actual Greek word with the exception that they replaced the "o" with an "e." They just replaced the "o" with an "e." They did not translate it. They did not translate. And a transliteration was done. The result, that every time someone reads a baptism in the Bible, they think it means water. It does not always mean water. Sometimes it means water, and sometimes it means other things. But people are very confused. Now we want us to look at the first verse, then Peter said unto them, "Repent." Okay, repent meant metanoia. It means change your mind, repent. And be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. There is a singing group that used to be around called Acts 2:38, and I knew they were works. If you had a singing group called Acts 2:38. You knew they were water baptized in, right? Do you have to be water baptized to be saved? No sir, you do not. Do you have to be baptized to be saved? Yes sir, you do. What baptism saves you? And that is what I want you to keep in mind as we are going to be looking at it. I think it is very important that we are able to see it.

QUESTION 1

The Bible teaches water baptism by _____ .

- A. Immersion
- B. Pouring
- C. Proxy
- D. Sprinkling

QUESTION 2

The word baptism is a translation of a Greek word. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: The Meaning of Baptism

Its Real Meaning

The real meaning of baptism - and I think this is very important that you understand this - it means to engulf and to cleanse. Okay? It could mean water, engulf and cover. When it is speaking spiritually, it means to totally cleanse. Baptism, now listen there is nobody that could say the Bible does not teach immersion. When someone says well, you know what I was a Methodist, the Methodists believed that you could sprinkle, pour, or immerse. They said you could take any one of the three. But the Bible does teach immersion, because it shows death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When Scripture refers to water baptism, it is always in the context, and it always makes it very clear. When water is not mentioned, you have to be very careful to read water into it. Now I did not list these verses that I'm going to give you right now, because I just figured it wouldn't be worth all the space that it would take up. Maybe I should have gone ahead and done it.

QUESTION 3

Which of the following words capture the meaning behind the word *baptism*? (*Select all that apply.*)

Answer: _____

- A. Cleanse
- B. Drench
- C. Engulf
- D. Sprinkle

QUESTION 4

The Bible teaches immersion because it perfectly pictures the major points of the gospel. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: The Meaning of Baptism

Its Scriptural Meaning

But here's six kinds of baptisms, I just want to briefly give you so you will understand, that were in the bible:

the baptism of John, Matthew 21:25,

the baptism of repentance, Mark 1:4,

the baptism of cleansing unto death, Romans 6:4,

the baptism in water, Matthew 3:11,

the baptism in the spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13, and

the baptism unto Moses, 1 Corinthians 10:2.

The above is significant to cause us to think twice before assuming baptism always refers to water. Now I want us to look at some verses, and I want us to be able to look at them and understand them. If you will look on your list of verses at Mark 16:16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Many of them say that that means water. That does not mean water; that does not mean water. It does not say water. He that believeth and is baptized. But you notice he that believeth not shall be damned. When you believe, you are automatically spiritually baptized; I will prove that, I will prove that later. I will prove that, I will prove that the Bible. I will prove it as clearly as I can prove it. I just want us to see that salvation is a gift from God and it is not by works. Listen, hear me out. What have we got to lose, but to spend another 30 possibly minutes and looking at what the word of God has to say? I don't think we have got anything to lose. I think we've got a lot to gain, because if salvation is a gift and we believe it's works, then we are not going to heaven. Because we are not believing that Jesus Christ gave a total gift.

QUESTION 6

Mark 16:16 says it is a baptism in/of _____ .

- A. Repentance
- B. Spirit
- C. Water
- D. It doesn't say

Topic 2: Passages Mentioning Baptism

Acts 19:1-7 is an interesting passage for many reasons. This incident happened probably about twenty-five years after Jesus died on the cross. So John had died even a couple of years before that. But, as if they had existed in a time warp, here Paul meets some disciples of John the Baptist. They are somehow unaware of many of the basic doctrines established in the early years of the church. In fact, they hadn't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. Yet they vividly illustrate another group of believers being brought into the New Testament church.

Acts 19:1-7

In Mark 1:8, "I indeed baptize you with water." Now who is this? John the Baptist. But he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. Do you see that? Don't you think that Mark 1:8 is one of the clear verses? John the Baptist said look, "I baptize you with water, but he that comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Ghost." I think that is extremely important to be able to understand that. And I want us to be able to see that, I think it is very important to be able to see it. Now, after Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, Paul came upon some of John's disciples. John the Baptist's disciples who were not saved. Even though they had been baptized by John in water, they had not yet received the baptism, the cleansing, of the Holy Spirit. When they did, they were saved. Now I've listed the verses here, and I want us to look at them in Acts 19:1 through 7. Now remember not so long back we covered this verse by verse. In Acts 19:1, it came to pass that while Paul was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts at Ephesus, and finding certain disciples. And he said unto them, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" And they said unto him, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." And he said unto them, "Unto what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Unto John's baptism, baptism of water." And he said, "Wait a minute, why did they do that?" Well, they were looking to the Messiah. Jesus was

water baptized himself. Acts 19:4, Then said Paul, “John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance saying unto the people that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is Christ Jesus.” In other words, he was only preparing the way. He was showing the signs of the death, burial, and resurrection. But they could not be saved without the baptism of the Spirit. And when they heard this, they were baptized. Now look at this, in the name of the Lord Jesus. It doesn't say that they were baptized in water. Now some people will argue with that and say, “No, that means water.” It does not say that though. In Acts 19:6, “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied and all the men were about 12.” Now you say, what do you mean they spoke with tongues? I believe they spoke with the language they have not learned. I don't believe they gibber-gabber. I believe they spoke with a language they had not learned. Just as whenever you see the gospel being spread out. They had that gift.

QUESTION 7

John the Baptist's disciples had not yet received the baptism _____ .

- A. Of John
- B. Of repentance
- C. In the Spirit
- D. Of water

QUESTION 8

This passage implies that they were baptized in water. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: Passages Mentioning Baptism

Romans 8:9

Assignment

- Please memorize Romans 8:9.

Now, I want us to look at this, I want to compare these verses with Romans 8:9. Now you hear me quote Romans 8:9 a lot. “But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Now when you hear people say well when you are saved but then you have to get baptized of the Spirit, that is not what the Bible says. The Bible says if you do not have the Spirit, you are none of his. You are not a child of God's unto you have the baptism of the Spirit. That is when you get saved. You cannot be saved without being baptized. That is why it says, “Believe and be baptized and you shall be saved.” It says, “He that believe if not, you see.” Baptism of the Spirit is automatic with being saved. It is automatic. How many people did Jesus Christ baptize with water? How many people did Jesus baptized in water? Jesus Christ baptized no one in water. That is why John the Baptist said he who comes after me will baptize you in spirit. You mean salvation? If it was by water, H₂O, and you have to be baptized by water? Then Jesus didn't do what was right. We know that it is impossible.

QUESTION 10

When should you be baptized by the Holy Spirit?

Answer: _____

- A. At a time he chooses
- B. Before salvation
- C. It is automatic with salvation
- D. It should be sought after salvation

Topic 3: What Baptism Saves Us?

If water baptism, by whatever mode is taught, is required for salvation, it must be required of everyone without exception. Since we know that the thief on the cross was saved without being baptized, this theory has already been proven false.

But there is a baptism required for salvation. In this topic we will look at what that baptism is.

Spirit Baptism

Assignment

- Please memorize 1 Corinthians 12:13.

I think even Ephesians 4:4 and 4:5 kind of go right along with this, doesn't it? There is one body. What's that body? The body of Christ. One Spirit. What's that Spirit? The Holy Spirit. Even as you are called in one hope and one calling. Now look at verse five, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. What baptism saves you? Not water - not water, but spiritual. Prove it, Pastor prove it. Okay. I'm going to prove it. And I think it parallels perfectly. The Spirit baptism is necessary for salvation. 1 Corinthians 12:13, very important to understand this: "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body." Okay you get that? For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. Whether we be Jews or Gentiles. Whether we be bound or free, we have all been made to drink into one Spirit. Do you see that? Do you see what saves you? Now listen, use these verses the word of God is what counts, it is not my opinion. My opinion doesn't mean anything. Okay? One Lord one faith one baptism. We were all baptized into one body. It is a spiritual baptism that saves you. It is so important for us to be able to see this and understand it. For you to be a child of God, now if any man have not the Spirit, he is none of his. He is none of his, and it says that in Romans 8:9, as we just read. We become a child of God by believing. Now in Ephesians 1:13, "In whom you also trusted after you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Listen, there is one baptism and that is the minute you get saved. When? When you believed you were sealed. You are sealed until you get that new body. That's going to be that glorious day in heaven. Listen, that day is coming - that we are going to get that new body and we are sealed. We are sealed; nothing can break that seal. In the Bible, you know, seals meant an awful lot. They understood when it said you are sealed unto the day of redemption, that meant until we get our new bodies, we are sealed. And what an incredible thing it is. I want us to be able to look at that. I think it is very important to be able to see it. Now, in 1 Corinthians 6:19, it says what? "Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, you are not your own?" Do you see that? But it says what? "Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in

you, which you have of God, and you are not your own.” Now is that very clear that the Holy Spirit is the baptism that saves us?

QUESTION 12

Which of the following passages tells that we as believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Answer: _____

- A. Romans 8:9
- B. 1 Corinthians 6:19
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:13
- D. Ephesians 1:13

Topic 3: What Baptism Saves Us?

Water and Baptism

Assignment

- Please memorize John 7:37-39.

In the last day, John 7:37 that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, if any man thirst let him come unto me and drink. He was not talking about H₂O my dear friends. He was talking about a spiritual water, a water that is so much above the H₂O. But see, so many times people when they see that word water, they think it is talking about H₂O. Thirst. No, this is talking about a spiritual thirst, it is talking about something much greater than water. “He that believes on me,” as the scripture hath said, “out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” And then to make it very clear, and John 7:39, “This spake he of the Spirit that they which believe on him should receive for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” You see it? Listen, what is it that saves you? Do you see these verses? “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast.” Salvation is a gift, you do not have to be water baptized to be saved. Now, when you look back at Acts 2:38, the very beginning, “Then Peter said unto him, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” You will discover what this verse means. Peter tells him to be cleansed in the name, the name Jesus is the God who saves and keeps. The name Jesus is a cleansing in itself. Peter said to be baptized in the name of Jesus. Some assume that Peter meant for the people to be baptized in water. And as they were being baptized, Peter would say over them I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ. However, this is not what was recorded. It says people were cleansed in Christ's name. It is his name that saves us. His name again means the God who saves, keeps, and satisfies. There is cleansing power in the name of Jesus. There is no cleansing power in water. Now I want you to notice that these people were cleansed in Christ. They received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and if you had to be water baptized it wouldn't be a gift. How could it be a gift? And then if you'll notice in Acts 2:41, it says, “Then they gladly received his word and were baptized that same day, and there were added unto the church about 3000 souls.” Now some people say there wasn't enough water in the temple area, I kind of doubt that, I believe there was enough water to do the baptism. I do not believe the disciples had the authority to go baptized 3000 people in water. I'm not going to argue whether or not there was enough water, I believe there was enough water in the temple area to do that. I'm not going to argue with that, just going to say, do you know how long it would take

those poor 12 disciples to baptize 3000, and that's not counting women and children. Three thousand? No, I believe it is talking about spiritual baptism. I really do. I just don't believe they have... Listen, if I am on someone else's turf, I am on the temple area which is controlled by the temple police. I don't think... Let's put it another way. Let's say somebody is on our grounds and they win someone to Christ, we don't know who they are. They are not going to come in here without our permission and baptize 3000 people in our baptistry. I hate to think what the water would look like at the end of it. They're just not going to do it without permission. You see? I think it is very clear. I think it is important that we are able to see that. It says there were added 3000 souls that same day, and never mentions water once. Now if water were so essential, why would it not mention it? Again, salvation is a gift.

QUESTION 14

In Acts 2:38-41 when Peter tells the crowd to be baptized, he mentions water several times. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Baptism and Cleaning

Assignment

- Please memorize 1 Corinthians 6:11.

Look at Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Now we looked at that a little bit, but let's look at it just a little bit more. Only unbelief condemns, I want you to notice that. Being water baptized or not water baptized has nothing to do with salvation. The baptism here is Spirit baptism, not water baptism. He that believeth and is cleansed shall be saved. We do the believing and God does the cleansing. And such were some of you, but you are washed. If you look at 1 Corinthians 6:11, "But you are sanctified but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." In John 3:5, "Jesus answered, "Verily, verily I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." I didn't list it, but one verse there. But I want you to... I thought it was very interesting, because Nicodemus, he immediately said, "How can a man born a second time? Can he crawl into his mother's womb and be born twice?" This was not speaking of water, immersed in water. Why does it when you see the word, excuse me, the word born does not mean to baptize. That's what I want to say. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit. There are two ways that this can be interpreted:

One is this born of water means born the first time of woman.

The second time of the Spirit, or it could also mean born of water refers to the Spirit, which is living water.

But it does not say baptize. People read that and say, "Born of water, you've got to be baptized in water." No it does not say that, it does not say baptize, it says born. When does born become baptized? It doesn't. Listen salvation is a gift of God, it is not of works, lest any man should boast. It is a gift. It is a gift. A gift is something that there are no strings attached.

QUESTION 16

In Mark 16:16, which of the following condemns a person? Answer: _____

- A. Lack of baptism
- B. Lack of faith
- C. Both
- D. Neither

QUESTION 17

Which of the following do we suggest as legitimate possible translations of what Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3:5? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Born of water refers to baptism by the Spirit
- B. Born of water refers to John's baptism
- C. Born of water refers to our human birth
- D. Born of water refers to water baptism

Baptism and Living Water

Other scholars believe this, that throughout the Gospel, John used the word “water” as an illustration of Living Water. Now, we discussed this some last week, but I want us to look at that. If you’ll look at John 4:6, “Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. [There] cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus [saith] unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away [unto] the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, [askest drink] of me, [which am] a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest [have] asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, [thou hast] nothing to draw [with,] and [the] well is deep: from whence [then hast] thou [that] living water? [Art] thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, [and drank] thereof [himself, and his children, and his cattle]? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh [of] the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; [but] the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up [into] everlasting life.” Now what is He saying? He’s saying that there is a Living Water. Not H₂O—H₂O does not save you. H₂O has nothing to do with saving you. And I think we ought to be able to see this. So this could have been translated this way; it could have been translated, “Except a man be born of water indeed by the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Okay? “Living Water indeed by the Spirit.” I personally think that it probably means “that which is [born of the] flesh is flesh; and that which is [born of the] Spirit is spirit,” and I personally [think] it means the two births—the first birth by woman, the next birth by the Spirit. Again, it does not mean water, H₂O, saves you. It just does not mean that. The important thing to know is that salvation is always and only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what we really need to know, isn't it? To conclude that John 3:5 is referring to water baptism, it would be to ignore completely what the Word of God has to say, and I think we've got to be very, very careful about that.

QUESTION 18

In John 4:6-14 Jesus is saying that there is a living water distinct from H₂O. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 19

To conclude that John 3:5 is referring to water baptism would be to ignore completely what God's Word has to say. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 4: Baptism and Dangerous Waters

It is interesting that the picture of baptismal waters in the Bible is one of danger. In the two passages that we look at in this topic anyone not staying in the ships would lose their physical life and drown in the waters. Those who believe in baptismal regeneration teach that the baptismal waters are beneficial, but that isn't the biblical picture of those waters.

Topic 4: Baptism and Dangerous Waters

Noah's Flood

If you'll look at 1 Peter 3:20 and 21—this is a verse that many people use to say that you have to be water baptized to be saved. Many people use this verse, and I wanted to look at it. "Which [sometime] were . . ."—first Peter 3:20—"disobedient, [when] once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was [a] preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." Now, a lot of people say, "See, they were saved by water." Now it doesn't take the brain of a cantaloupe to know that they were saved—not by water. They were saved from water. They were in the Ark, okay? Yes, they were saved. They were taken up off the earth, but they were saved from water. And people use that. And then 1 Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also [now] save us . . ." and then they stop there. It's like they got blinders on. Baptism does save us. Now, let's look at the context. Then it says, "(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ". Now first of all, if the context is not speaking of saving us from Hell, it says it saves us by what? A good conscience. You see, when you're saved, you are by God, supposed to be water baptized. Water baptism has nothing to do with salvation, but you should follow the Lord in baptism, and it's a conscience that bothers you if you don't do it. And that's what it's saying here very clearly. "(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh . . ."—see, when I read that verse, I see it as clear as day that that's talking about not water baptism, because it says "not the putting away of the filth of the flesh." We think of water, we think about cleaning the flesh and trying to stay clean. And that's not what it's saying. You have people get confused on that, don't they? They got blinders. I want us to see that. It's not the putting away of the filth. Now, the very context, as we look at this Noah, he was saved through water. He was not saved by the water in that sense. He was saved by being kept out of the water. And what does it mean "saved"? It meant saved from drowning. Every time a person sees the word "save," so many times they think it means your salvation. Well that's what it does mean a lot of times, but it doesn't always mean that. And I think those are some of the things that we need to be able to see, and see the difference

QUESTION 20

In the context of 1 Peter 3:20-21, water is a picture of _____ .

- A. Cleansing
- B. Death
- C. Salvation
- D. Sin

QUESTION 21

What is the issue in 1 Peter 3:20-21 if a Christian does not get water baptized?

Answer: _____

- A. A good testimony
- B. A troubled conscience
- C. Salvation
- D. Spiritual cleansing

Topic 4: Baptism and Dangerous Waters

Paul's Shipwreck

Now, I want us to look at a few of these different examples. Look at James 5:15, that's in your verses, "[And] the prayer of faith shall save the sick, the Lord shall raise him up; and [if] he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." That doesn't mean saved for eternity, it means "save the sick from being sick". I think that's important that we're able to see this. This next one, Paul in Acts 27:31, "Paul said to the centurion [and] to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, [ye] cannot be saved." What does that mean? If you don't stay in the ship, you're not going to be saved. And Paul, when he was in a shipwreck—and as we know, they all stayed in the ship—and they were all safe. They all got to shore on time. He said, "Stay in the ship." I'm surprised there's not a group of people called "Ship-ites," that's one cult that hasn't started yet, Ship-ites. "What are you?" "We're Ship-ite." If they haven't thought of that one, I hope they don't hear this one and someone start it, and start building ships so that everybody can be saved. See, when people see these things, they always think it means "water," and "baptism," and "saved from Hell," and they don't always understand what it means. I think it's very important that we can see this.

QUESTION 22

In the context of Acts 27:31, water here is a picture of _____ .

- A. Cleansing
- B. Death
- C. Salvation
- D. Sin

QUESTION 23

When Paul said, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved" he spoke of eternal salvation. *True or False?* Answer: _____

Topic 5: Not Sent to Baptize

If baptism was necessary for salvation, Paul had the wrong attitude. He says, “I thank God that I baptized none of you but Crispus and Gaius...For Christ sent me not to baptize but to preach the gospel not with wisdom of words lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (1 Corinthians 1:14; 1:17). In this case Paul saw baptism as a hindrance to the gospel! It would be impossible for the apostle to say that if baptism was a necessary part of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 1:17, I think this is one of the clearest places in the Bible, in the entire Bible, that you do not have to be water baptized to be saved. Now, if I were to ask any of you who was the greatest soul winner in the New Testament, I don't think any of you would hesitate to say the Apostle Paul. I think everybody would say, “Who was the greatest soul winner in the New Testament?” and you'd say, “The Apostle Paul.” Okay, now let's look at this: “For Christ sent me not to baptize . . .” Boy, I wonder what some of these preachers today that—now believe me, I emphasize baptism—some of them baptize people that just walk in their church one time. The greatest soul winner of all time says, “Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” Do you understand how important and how powerful that is? If salvation was dependent on water baptism, the Apostle Paul would say, “I thank God that Jesus sent me not to save people's souls.” He said that he would give his own eyes; he said he'd give his own soul if the Jews could be saved.” See, water baptism does not save you. It does not save you, and I think people can see this. How silly that would be. 1 Corinthians 1:14, “I thank God that I baptized none of you, [but] Crispus and Gaius.” Do you see that? He said, “I'm glad I'm not into that.” Listen—now don't get me wrong—water baptism's very important, but it does not save. If you believe in water baptism saves you, then there's no way you're going to be saved, because you're believing in works. You're believing in works, you're not going to be saved. Water baptism never washes away our sin, only the blood of Christ. Look at Ephesians 1:7, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”. How do we have it? Through the redemption of his blood. The only thing that saves us is Christ and His blood. The ordinance of Communion and baptism are the only two ordinances that we're to keep in the New Testament Church. Water baptism is a testimony to others that we've trusted Christ.

QUESTION 24

According to Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:17, what was he **NOT** sent to do? (*Select all that apply.*)

Answer: _____

- A. Baptize
- B. Preach the cross
- C. Preach the gospel
- D. Preach with wisdom of words

QUESTION 25

Which of the following are ordinance of the church? (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: _____

- A. Believer's baptism
- B. Confirmation
- C. Infant baptism
- D. The Lord's Supper

Topic 6: Baptism as an Ordinance

Many mainline churches see baptism as a way to obtain grace. For those churches baptism is seen as a **sacrament**. By definition, sacraments are ways of receiving God's grace. However it is unbiblical to do anything to receive God's grace. God's grace is undeserved favor that cannot be earned.

Instead we believe that baptism, along with the Lord's Supper, is the two ordinances of the church. Ordinances are accepted practices of the church done in obedience to the Lord, but we reject the notion that they in any way are channels to God's grace.

Look at Romans 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism [into] death: 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." Now how do you witness to people that believe in water baptism? First of all, stay on the gospel. Ephesians 2:8 and 9, the verses we have behind us, that you have printed there in your next verses, "For by grace are [ye] saved through faith; and [that] not of yourselves: [it is the] gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Romans 4:5, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." So many people really believe that Jesus paid for part of the sin, but didn't pay for all the sin. When you're dealing with people with water baptism, stay on the gospel. John 6:47, the next one, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." And then of course John 3: 16, 17, 18. How about in Acts 16:30? It's a good one to use on people, isn't it? This was the Philippian jailer. "[And] brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." If water baptism [was required for salvation]—why would they not tell him, "Well, you've got to be water baptized"? Why would they tell him that? They didn't tell him that. Isn't it great we can take the Bible and see what it has to say? How do we get saved? Skip down and look at Acts 13:38, "Be it known [unto] you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of [sins]: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, [from] which [ye] could not be justified by the law of Moses." Do you see that? How about the thief on the cross? The thief on the cross said, "Lord remember me." And the Lord said, "[To] day [shalt] thou wilt be with me in paradise." You say, "Well paradise, how do you know that's the same as Heaven?" Well, let's look at 2 Corinthians 12:1, 2, 3, and 4: "It is [not] expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; [or] whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth". In other words, Paul was so close to God, he said "I knew the guy, and the guy's still alive. Whether he's in his body or not, I don't know." That is pretty much confidence in God. "Such [an] one caught up to the third heaven. [And] I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How [that] he was caught up [into] paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which [it is] not lawful for a man to utter." Where was he caught up into? Paradise, paradise is the same thing as Heaven. The thief on the cross said, "Lord, remember me." And the Lord said, "This day you will be with me in paradise." Boy, I have fun with those people who believe in water baptism on that one, don't you? Well how about the thief on the cross? And they'll say, "Well that was an exception, because they were right there with Jesus." That was an exception. Now wait a minute, you say water baptism is essential for salvation, there are no exceptions. Jesus' blood, I'll tell you there's no other way. If you will look at 1 Corinthians 1—I'm going to skip on down—this is when they were all fighting over who was what, this—well, let me read the whole thing. 1 Corinthians 1:11, "For it hath been declared unto [me of] you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; [and] I of Apollos; [and] I of Cephas; and I of Christ." They were arguing over who they were of. God doesn't like this. God does not like the worship of a man. And He didn't like this. Well, I am of Paul. Well, I am of Peter, Cephas. I'm of Peter. Well, I'm of Apollos. The intellectual one was Apollos. And God doesn't like that. That doesn't mean God doesn't

want us to respect those that are in authority over us, but [He] doesn't want us to go around with pride. God doesn't want pride, period. And that's what they were doing—I'm of this one, I'm of that one, and I'm of this one. And then he says, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? [or] were [ye] baptized in the name of Paul?" He was pretty upset. Let me tell you something, I know how upset he was. He wasn't real happy with these people. And then he said, "I thank God [that] I baptized none of you, [but] Crispus and Gaius; Lest any [should] say that I [had] baptized in [mine] own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel". How much clearer can it be? You see what I'm saying? Now I don't believe there's anybody here probably believes you got to be water baptized, but do you know how important it is to be able to share that with people? Some of you say, "Well, I'm not qualified." You are, too, qualified. God doesn't have a clergy and a laity—no, God wants all of us to be qualified to speak—and listen, be kind when you talk to people. Remember they haven't had all the privileges maybe you've had. And be kind. Don't show pride. Show love. Show concern, but show them that you care. We want to be able to see what the Word of God has to say, and the Word of God says that water baptism does not save you. Now we're all baptized by the Spirit of God, "For by one Spirit [are] we all baptized into one body". "One Lord, one faith, one baptism". Jesus Himself never baptized anybody, although Jesus was baptized. Water baptism is very important, but water baptism does not save. If you had to be water baptized to be saved, then salvation would not be a gift, and it would not be by grace. And we would have no chance or hope of Heaven. Oh, I am glad I don't have to be water baptized to be saved. Now, I'm glad I was water baptized. I was water baptized in a bigger baptistery than most of you have ever been baptized in. I was in the Atlantic. Maybe some of you were in the Pacific, you got me beat—I don't know. But water baptism doesn't save. I remember when I was baptized, the preacher said, "Now you know this doesn't save you?" You say, "Why would he say that? He already knew you knew that." I appreciated him saying it. I think salvation ought to be kept clear. So many people muddy up the water, muddy up the gospel, and people don't understand it. That Jesus Christ and Him alone on the cross of Calvary paid our sin debt, and He paid it—we don't have to. Man, it's the greatest news I ever heard.

QUESTION 26

When you witness to the people who believe in water baptism, first challenge their doctrinal position.

True or False? Answer: _____

QUESTION 27

What verse would you use to show someone that baptism by immersion best pictures the key facts of the gospel? Answer: _____

- A. Romans 6:4
- B. Romans 4:5
- C. Ephesians 2:8-9
- D. 1 Peter 3:20-21

Lesson 18 Answers to Questions

QUESTION 1

A. Immersion [Every Christian ought to be water baptized but that baptism is not for salvation.]

QUESTION 2: False [The word, “baptize,” was not a translation but a transliteration. The result is that every time a person reads “baptism” in the Bible, they think it means water baptism.]

QUESTION 3

A. Cleanse

C. Engulf

[It could mean “water engulfed and covered.”]

QUESTION 4: True [It shows the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.]

QUESTION 5

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Type of Baptism</i>
Matthew 3:11	Baptism in water.
Matthew 21:25	Baptism of John.
Mark 1:4	Baptism of repentance.
Romans 6:4	Baptism of cleansing unto death.
1 Corinthians 10:2	Baptism unto Moses.
1 Corinthians 12:13	Baptism in the Spirit.

QUESTION 6

D. It doesn't say [Understanding the different kinds of baptisms is significant before assuming baptism always refers to water.]

QUESTION 7

C. In the Spirit [They had been baptized by John in water because they were looking to the Messiah but they had not yet received the baptism in the Spirit.]

QUESTION 8: False [Again, people assume this but if they were it is not taught by the passage.]

QUESTION 9: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

QUESTION 10

C. It is automatic with salvation [Baptism of the Spirit is automatic with being saved.]

QUESTION 11: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

QUESTION 12

B. 1 Corinthians 6:19 [That is very clear that the Holy Spirit is the baptism that saves us.]

QUESTION 13: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.”

QUESTION 14: False [It says there were added 3,000 souls that day and never mentions water once.]

QUESTION 15: *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

QUESTION 16

B. Lack of faith [Being water baptized or not being water baptized has nothing to do with salvation.]

QUESTION 17

A. Born of water refers to baptism by the Spirit

C. Born of water refers to our human birth

[People read that and say you have to be baptized in water. But it does not say baptize, it says born.]

QUESTION 18: True [In the same way, John 3:5 could have been translated, “Except a man be born of water indeed by the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”]

QUESTION 19: True [Only faith in Christ can save someone from spiritual thirst.]

QUESTION 20

B. Death [They were only safe from the waters because they were in the ark.]

QUESTION 21

B. A troubled conscience [It is the conscience that bothers you if you do not get baptized.]

QUESTION 22

B. Death [They were only safe from the waters because they were in the ship.]

QUESTION 23: False [Instead he spoke of temporal salvation and they were saved as all got to shore safely.]

QUESTION 24

A. Baptize

D. Preach with wisdom of words

[This is one of the clearest places in the entire Bible showing that you do not have to be water baptized to be saved.]

QUESTION 25

A. Believer’s baptism

D. The Lord’s Supper

[There are no sacraments that bring grace but these are the two ordinances or common practices of the church.]

QUESTION 26: False [Instead, we recommend that you stay on the gospel.]

QUESTION 27

A. Romans 6:4 [It perfectly pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.]

QUESTION 28: *Your answer*