

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM

**Introduction:** Testimony—of being saved and then baptized.

### 1. Baptism Is a Local Church Ordinance (Matthew 28:18-20)

The church was started by Christ and his disciples.

Christ gave the church doctrines and ordinances.

**Doctrines** of a church are its beliefs or teachings.

**Ordinances** of a church are what Christ commanded it to observe. (Ex: A rule, law, or decision by persons in authority. Like a town ordinance.)

\*It was given to the church, not the preacher.

**Acts 2:38-41** [CONTEXT: Pentecost]

*“then they that gladly received his word were baptized”*

***Baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation.***

### 2. Baptism Is An Identity

- a. Identifies us with the local church where we are baptized and the body of doctrine that it believes. (**Acts 2:42**)
- b. Identifies us with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Romans 6:3-4**)
- c. Identifies for other people that we have accepted the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in our hearts as the only means of salvation. [We are going to walk in newness of life.]

### 3. Baptism Is To Be By Immersion

#### a. Picture of Christ's Baptism (**Romans 6:3-4**)

Christ was immersed in the tomb.

- Sprinkling and pouring do not picture burial.
- Being baptized three times forward doesn't picture the burial. (i.e. Grace Brethren)
- Only immersion pictures the burial of Christ.

#### b. John's Baptism (**Matthew 3**)

v.5-6 went out to him, to Jordan

v.13-17 Jesus was immersed

**John 3:23** *And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came and were baptized.*

#### c. Ethiopian Eunuch (**Acts 8:38** “went down into the water”)

### 4. Baptism Is For The Saved; It Doesn't Save. (**Acts 8:35-37**)

**Acts 16:30-33** The Philippian Jailor

{If baptism washed sins away, then we would need to change the water every time someone was baptized.}