

Lesson No. 17

What Does the Bible Say About the Nature of Holy Baptism?

1. Who instituted Holy Baptism?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Matthew 28:18-20. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

(By a Sacrament we mean (1) a **sacred act**, instituted by God Himself; (2) in which there are certain **external means** (3) **connected with His Word**; (4) and by which God offers, gives, and seals unto us the **forgiveness of sins** which Christ has merited. - There are only two such sacraments, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.)

2. What does it mean to baptize?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Matthew 3:11.* I indeed baptize you **with water**.
- (b) *Mark 7:4.* When they (the Pharisees) come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they **wash** (baptize). And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the **washing** (baptizing) of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.
- (b) *Acts 22:16.* Arise and be **baptized**, and **wash** away your sins.
- (b) *Matthew 3:11.* He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Compare Acts 2:16,17. Note that "baptize" means also "pour out".)
- (c) *Matthew 28:19.* Baptizing them **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

To baptize means

- (A) To apply water
- (B) In any manner
- (C) In the name of the Triune God.

(The words "Baptizing them in (into) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" imply that by Baptism we are received into communion with the Triune God and are made Christians. Where the doctrine of the Trinity is denied, there is no Baptism.)

3. Through whom does the Church administer Baptism?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

1 Corinthians 4:1. Let a man so consider us, as **servants of Christ** and **stewards of the mysteries of God**.

1 Corinthians 14:40. Let all things be done **decently and in order**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Church administers Baptism through the called ministers of Christ (in cases of emergency and in the absence of the pastor any Christian can -- and should -- baptize).

4. Who is to be baptized?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Matthew 28:19. Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations, baptizing them.**

Acts 2:38-39. 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. For **the promise is to you and to your children**, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

All nations, that is, all human beings, are to be baptized.

5. Why are also infants to be baptized?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

(a) *Matthew 28:19.* Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations, baptizing them.**

(a) *Acts 2:38,39.* Repent, and **let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins... For the promise is to you **and to your children.**

*(b) *John 3:5,6.* Unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the **flesh is flesh**, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(b) *Psalms 51:5-7.* Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity**, And **in sin my mother conceived me.** Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

*(c) *Matthew 18:6.* But whoever causes one of these **little ones who believe in Me** to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Infants, too, are to be baptized

(A) Because they are included in the words "all nations";

(B) Because Holy Baptism is the only means whereby infants, who, also are sinful and must be born again to enter the kingdom of God, can ordinarily be regenerated and brought to faith;

(C) Because they, too, can believe (baptism has taken the place of circumcision, which was administered to infants when they were eight days old. Colossians 2:11,12. The apostles baptized whole families - cf. Acts 16:15, 33; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:16).

6. What distinction is to be made in baptizing?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

(a) *Acts 2:41.* Then those who gladly **received his word** were baptized.

(a) *Acts 8:26-39; Acts 16:25-33.* (Read these passages.)

(b) *Ephesians 6:4.* And you, **fathers**, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up** in the training and admonition of the Lord.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

(A) Those who can receive instruction are to be baptized after they have been instructed in the principal doctrines of the Christian religion and after they have confessed their faith in Christ.

(B) Little children should be baptized when they are brought to Baptism by those who have authority over them (sponsors have been introduced in order that they may (1) testify that the children have been properly baptized, (2) assist in caring for their Christian education and training, and (3) pray for them).

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 17.

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*).



READ Acts, chapters 19-25.

Work Sheet No. 17

1.

The Roman Catholic Church has seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Mass or Holy Communion, Matrimony, Ordination, Penance, and Extreme Unction.

(A) Which of these are true sacraments?

(B) Show why matrimony is no sacrament.....

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2.

(A) May we baptize by immersing, as the Baptists do?.....

(B) Must we baptize by immersing?.....

3.

A short form for performing an emergency Baptism mentions the following: 1. Read a prayer; 2. Pray the Lord's Prayer; 3. Call the person by name; 4. Pour or sprinkle water on the head of the person; 5. Say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Which of these five things are absolutely essential for a valid Baptism?

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4.

Why do Baptists reject Infant Baptism?.....

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5.

While anyone of sound mind may be a witness at a Baptism, only persons of the same faith should be asked to be sponsors.

Why?.....

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