

Baptism

All Scripture is KJV: Matthew 28:19

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Matthew 28:19 ¹⁹ **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

The last lesson and the last command that the Lord Jesus gave to his followers was the great commission, which is found in Matthew 28:19.

If Jesus could have said it differently he would have told us.

But what he wanted us all to remember was his death, burial and resurrection. Because this is the gift of life that represents all that Jesus has done for the believer on the cross.

Just like Jesus has taken away our sin through believing in him, he reminds us that through baptism, which is the picture of his death burial and resurrection of Jesus; then we like him are buried in him in our death.

But Jesus did not stop there, he told the believer that as the believer is buried in him, so too shall the believer arise to walk in the newness of life.

1. Jesus, who is our savior and the savior of the whole world, has set forth the example for us to follow him, through being obedient to his commands and to follow after him.
 2. The picture of baptism is a symbolic picture of the old man (the old you) who has died. And now the new man has risen, to follow after Jesus.
 3. So baptism, although it does not save us, reminds the believer of his obedience to the Lord, and fulfills a picture of the old man who is buried, and because of Jesus who took all our sins upon him, has commanded us to arise and to walk in the newness of life in Him.
- I find that, if anyone who will not be baptized is not only being disobedient to the Lord, but in his whole life he will carry on being disobedient to other matters concerning the Lord.

The bible carries much instruction for the believer to be baptized, but will a person honor the Lord and follow that instruction.

- Many people will not get baptized by reason of that it has nothing to do with salvation. Which is true? But will you carry on being disobedient to the Lord? You choose?

So what does the bible have to say?

Firstly today is a very special day, not only do we get the opportunity to come and worship our savior, but today we all get to participate in being a witness to the Lord, and witnessing those who want to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism.

The church has been ordained by God, to carry out two ordinances as the church follows after the Lord, and is in obedience unto him.

1. The first ordinance of the local NT church is that of observing the Lords supper.
2. The second ordinance is that of Baptism. Those being baptized the bible says were added unto the church.

[Acts 2:41](#) ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

When Jesus gave the great commission unto the disciples, they in turn gave it unto those who had called upon the Lord as their savior.

So the last will and testament from Jesus to believers is found here in the scriptures, especially here in Matthew 28:19.

[Matthew 28:19](#) ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

- As a believer is commissioned by the Lord he is told to teach others. In fact the believer is to teach All Nations, which is a command to not to limit the teaching and preaching, of God's word only to certain groups of peoples, or certain privileged groups of people. No, the command was that we should teach the whole council of the word of the Lord to all manners of people.

I don't often quote a man's work that he has done. But in order to get some inspiration it is sometimes worthy to look how simple men can serve the Lord, and do so much for the cause of Christ.

But such was a man in our recent history who took to heart the very words of the Gospel of our Lord, and felt urged to carry out the great commission.

That man was William Carey. (1792).

- The sermon that William Carey preached on this day has been called deathless. Mission text books agree that it changed the world. Thousands, perhaps millions have read or quoted the two most remarkable phrases from it: **"Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God!"**
- A poorly-educated cobbler, William Carey always sought to teach himself new things. He was converted to Christ by dissenters (English [Christians](#) who operated outside of the official Church of England). Immediately he recognized that others also needed Christ. He began to preach and strained even harder to educate himself, going hungry--and allowing his family to suffer--so that he could buy himself books. He became a Baptist pastor.

- Reading Captain Cook's voyages gave him a heart for world missions. The people that Cook wrote about needed Christ. At that time, Protestants were doing little to spread the gospel world wide. Hans Egede in Greenland, the Moravians in the West Indies, David Brainerd and John Eliot in America had undertaken efforts, but the reformation church at large was idle.
- But when William spoke up in behalf of missions, an older pastor responded with a withering rebuke. "Young man, sit down: when God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid or mine."
- William sat down on that occasion, but he didn't sit back. He was the kind of man, who once he begins a thing, must go through with it. He gathered facts and statistics, [Bible](#) commands and commonsense arguments demolishing the position of those who said the church should do nothing. The result was a book called An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen.
- On this day, May 31, 1792, at ten in the morning, he addressed his fellow Baptists at a Nottingham conference. He took as his Isaiah 54:1, 2: "Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes, for thou shall break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. " As he saw it, this was a challenge for missionary work. It was a challenge for faith. **"Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God!" he urged.**
- "If all the people had lifted up their voices and wept," said Dr. Ryland, "...it would only have seemed proportionate to the cause; so clearly did Mr. Carey prove the criminality of our supineness [lying down] in the cause of God!" But his listeners seemed indifferent.
- At their meeting the next day, they said the venture was too big for them. Carey seized Fuller's arm and, in deep distress asked whether they were once more going to go their separate ways without doing anything. This final plea made the difference. The gathering put forward a resolution for drawing up plans to form a Baptist Mission Society. William Carey became their first missionary.

Now whilst we may not liken our self to William Carey, we should expect great things from God; and attempt great things for God.

1. If we are going to attempt great things for the Lord, then surely we should be in obedience to him before we can attempt those things for him?
2. Because imagine for a moment that you want to do those things for the Lord, and yet you have not been obedient to him even in baptism?
3. Can you see how that will affect your cause to follow his command of going forth to teach and to tell others that they should be baptized?
4. Because if you not doing it? Or have not done it? Then how can you expect that your testimony is going to carry any authority to others?

Now that we have understood the Lords command to be Baptized let us visit the scriptures on how that is to be carried out?

1. The bible commands that Baptism is the full emersion into a body of water, and not just a sprinkling of water on someone's head?
2. The bible also tells us that a person is to be baptized once they have called upon the Lord in faith, and have understood the gospel message.
 - ✓ Concerning infant Baptism, babies or small children cannot be baptized because they do not have at that stage the volitional knowledge to call upon Jesus for their salvation.
 - ✓ Infant Baptism is not scriptural, and of course is never once commanded or taught in the bible.
3. With many bible verses showing proof that baptism is only after salvation and that Baptism is full emersion how can it be anything else?

John 1:28

These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was **baptizing**.

4. With verses and passages of scripture explaining what Baptism is, it is then our example to do the same. Such as when John was Baptizing in the Jordan where there was much water. John 3:23.

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.**

5. How about in the book of acts when the Ethiopian Eunuch got saved. Acts 8.

Acts 8:36-39 ³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, **See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?**

³⁷ **And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: **and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.**

³⁹ And when **they were come up out of the water,** the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

1. Acts 8:36-39 is a great example of obedience to the word of God,
 2. the confession of his faith,
 3. and the obedience to be baptized,
 4. and the means of that baptism
 5. As well as method of baptism.
- A person who does not know the Lord as their savior cannot be baptized, and if he did it means he only got wet, as in the case of babes being sprinkled.
 - There has to be first knowledge of the savior, then confession of his salvation, then obedience to want to be baptized because of that knowledge of salvation.

Sometimes people equate their salvation to include Baptism. But this of course is false and not the case. They may use verses like Mark 16:16 to prove their case, but this is a misunderstanding of that verse as is many others that they may use.

Mark 16:16 He that **believeth** and is **baptized shall be saved**; but **he that believeth not shall be damned**.

You see that even the second half of Mark 16:16 answers its own statement. It is those who don't believe that are damned, not the ones who don't get baptized.

- Jesus says in many scriptures that those who call upon His name shall be saved, or those who believe in Him shall be saved. Salvation is by Jesus alone, and not by anything that we do, or otherwise it would not be by faith and his grace that we would be saved as Ephesians 2:8-9 states. Then it would be of works.
- ❖ Another great example of Baptism not being sprinkling is observed in the scriptures by our Lord giving us his example of Baptism.

Matthew 3:16 **And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water**: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

1. Again we see Jesus in the water, and then coming up out of the water, the same as the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:41.
2. Jesus did not need to get saved. He only was baptized to show his obedience to His Father.
3. He was also showing that we need to be obedient to him as well, and also to His Father. Baptism is a an outward show of obedience.

When John the Baptist was baptizing in the River Jordan he was showing the way forward to the cross, to the day in which Jesus would take the sins upon him of the whole world.

John was Baptizing for repentance which was before the cross, that is why we see John say this in the early scriptures before Jesus was crucified.

Mark 1:8 **I indeed have baptized you with water**: **but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost**.

4. John's baptism was pointing the way to the cross, whereas Jesus baptism would be with the Holy Ghost.
 5. When we are saved we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. That's what John was saying and referring to.
- ❖ Mark 1:8 was again repeated in Acts 1:5. It was when the church had assembled as Jesus had told them, and that they were to wait for the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:5

For **John truly baptized with water**; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

In the scriptures Just as Matthew 28:19, gave instruction, a person needs to turn to Jesus for salvation (repent) first and then be baptized.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of **Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

1. The act of repentance is to turn from your idols and of unbelief (as a sinner caught in your sin) and to accept the only way of salvation by the Lord Jesus by faith. It is only then that you can be baptized.
2. There is nothing hindering you at the stage to get baptized. There is no work worthy other than to call upon and accept Jesus by faith.
3. The Holy Ghost is the gift of salvation a believer receives freely and is sealed.
4. True Baptism, is an act of submission to show that you have believed. It does not bring salvation, but is a mark to show your salvation in being obedient to the Lord.

That is why the apostle Paul quoted this verse to the congregation in Acts.

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, on Christ Jesus**.

One of the most inspiring scriptures to us of the whole of the NT is **Romans 6:3-5**. It tells us of our hope to be resurrected with the Lord one day. It reminds the believer of Jesus being our Savior and King and God.

It reminds us of the reasons why we have the hope that is within each believer. And it seals the promises of God to us as believers in Jesus.

- This is **Romans 6:3-5**.

Romans 6:3-5³ Know ye not, that so many of us as **were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**

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.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

- ❖ Do you want to be obedient to your Lord Jesus?

- ✚ Today is the day?

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one **baptism**,

Colossians 2:12 **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

1 Peter 3:20-22 ²⁰ Which sometime were 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.

²¹ **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us** (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:**

²² Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

1. These verse from 1 Peter 3:2-22, are reminding us that just as in the days of Noah, when they were waiting for the ark to be prepared, they were being obedient to what God had told Noah; and that was to build an ark.
2. So just as the ark was being prepared, so Peter is saying that we as believers are being prepared, (²¹ **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.**
3. He is not saying that it is the baptism that is going to save us. No. He is saying that in the “like figure”.
4. In other words, he is saying that as the ark could float away and save those that were within, it was because of their obedience to prepare themselves by the Word of the Lord, it is what saved them.
5. So the baptism of the believer is as the scripture says.....it is not the putting away of the flesh, but it is the answer **but the answer of a good conscience toward God,**) **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**
6. It is the good conscience the scripture says, that the believer will have and should have a good conscience to what the Lord God has told them. Like having a good conscience to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism.
7. A good conscience is when you are “prepared to do everything that the Lord has commanded you”

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as **have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

- ✚ So Baptism is having a good conscience towards the Lord.
- ✚ Baptism is not salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:17 **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.

- ✚ So today is a glorious day to see those come forward to honor their Lord in Baptism.

PRAYER.....CLOSE