

## 10. What always comes before baptism? Matthew 28:19-20

*Note: Jesus said that Bible teaching comes before baptism. We have said earlier that baptism is like a marriage. There are many things that one must learn about a person before they are willing to marry them. The same is true of baptism. There are things we need to learn about scripture. Many have been baptized (sprinkled) as a baby. Question: can a baby understand the issues of salvation? Can a baby exercise faith in Christ? Can a baby repent and confess? A baby cannot understand his need of a savior. If you were only sprinkled as a baby Jesus said you need to be baptized by immersion.*

## 11. What are the steps leading to baptism?

### 1. Bible teaching/study:

*"(19) 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, (20) 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." Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

### 2. Faith in Jesus Christ:

*"So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31*

### 3. Confession:

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9*

### 4. Repentance:

*"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Luke 5:32*

### 5. Make a date to be baptized and commit your life to God.



## 12. What is God calling us to do? Acts 2:37-38

*Note: God is calling everyone to make the decision to be baptized and become part of the body of Christ. What are you waiting for? If you have already been baptized by immersion and feel it's not necessary for you to be re-baptized at this time, but want to join the church there is a ceremony called profession of faith, which can be easily scheduled. Is there anything keeping you from making that decision right now?*

MY CHOICE: I want to be a part of God's remnant church and be baptized.



## Lesson #22 How to Bury the Past

It's always easy to take a hammer and pound a nail into wood, isn't it? When you sin, it's like taking a nail and pounding it into a wall, it's easy. And it's also easy to take the claw end of the hammer and pull out the nail, but can we pull the hole out? It's easy to pull the nail out, but what about the hole? How can we get that hole out?

We all have holes in our experience, holes that we try to cover up. We have holes that we wish no one would discover, holes that are shameful, holes that are expensive, but there's good news. There's hope! Jesus said you can be born again. How is this possible?

### 1. What does Jesus use to wash us? Revelation 1:5, 7:14

*Note: When we want to wash our clothes, specifically our whites, what do we use, bleach, right? But when God washes us He uses something much more powerful, the blood of Jesus, because the stains of our lives are set deep. The gospel is the only time where red + red = white (see Isa 1:18).*

### 2. How does the bride of Christ have a clean robe? Revelation 19:8

*Note: Notice that the church was granted a pure white robe. These people came to Jesus and He washed away their sins and made them righteous.*

### 3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he must be? John 3:1-8

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*Note: Jesus told Nicodemus (a curious Pharisee) that he must be born again. We need to be born again because there was something wrong with the first birth. What is wrong with our first birth? Everyone who is born once is born of the flesh. That is why Jesus said, "you must be born again." In verse 5 Jesus said that you must be "born of water and the Spirit" or you will not see the kingdom of heaven. When Jesus spoke of being "born of the water" He was referring to water baptism by immersion. Baptism represents the washing away of past sins and starting life over with new power.*

### 4. What does the word baptize mean?

*According to the Strongs Concordance the Greek word "baptizo" means to make whelmed, dip or to immerse. Baptism is mentioned 80 times in the New Testament.*

### 5. How should we be baptized? Matthew 3:16-17; John 3:23

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*Note: Notice it says, "Jesus came up from the water." You can't come up from the water if you never down into it. Apparently Jesus was totally submerged. John the Baptist needed "much water" because he baptized by immersion. Phillip and the Eunuch went "down into the water". Obviously they went down into it because they came "up out of the water" (see Acts 8:38-39). Baptism by sprinkling was not accepted until 1311 at the Council of Ravenna as equally valid (according to man) instead of baptism by immersion. So if you have been sprinkled, biblically speaking you have not been baptized and need to do so according to scripture.*

*TRUE STORY: Missionaries came to an Indian chief. And they shared Jesus with him. For several months the missionaries studied the Bible with his tribe and the chief along his whole tribe wanted to be baptized. The date was set and the missionary came to the Indian chief and he said, "Chief, I'm ready to baptize you." And the missionary brought out a gold chalice filled with water. And the poor chief looked and said, "cup too small, cup too small. Indian cannot fit in cup." And the missionary said, "It doesn't make any difference how much water there is, chief." It is reported that the old chief said, "Then, Indian has read wrong book."*

### 6. What does baptism signify? Romans 6:1-6

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*Note: Baptism signifies our public acceptance of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Verse 4 says that when we are raised out of the water we are raised into "newness of life." This is how Jesus does laundry. Jesus can wash away your sins. You can bury the past. You can have a new start. You can have a clean slate. How? By being baptized! Baptism is like getting married. You don't necessarily know everything about the person, but you know enough about them to know that you want to spend the rest of your life together. Two people meet and fall in love and then have a public ceremony to declare their love for each other. The same is true of Bible baptism.*

### 7. At baptism, what are you baptized into? 1Corinthians 12:13

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*Note: The Bible says that we are baptized into one body. All members in the body work together for a common purpose. Everyone is equal in the body.*

### 8. What exactly is that body? Ephesians 1:22-23

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*Note: The church is the body of Christ. When we are baptized into the church we begin a new chapter in our life with like-minded believers who all have basic goals. God never wanted his people to be lone ranger Christians. All through scripture God has worked through a body of believers.*

### 9. Does the Bible mention re-baptism? Acts 19:1-5

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*Note: These men in Acts 19 learned new Bible truth. These devout men or Christians had never heard of the Holy Spirit and when they learned major new truth they were re-baptized into that truth. A rebaptism does not mean that you were not sincere in the past, it simply strengthens your commitment for their future. When you learn of truths such as the Sabbath, what really happens when you die, the truth about the second coming of Jesus, the mark of the beast, etc... you should be baptized into that truth.*

