

# ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



**A | D | V | A | N | C | E | D**  
**B | I | B | L | I | C | A | L      C | O | U | R | S | E**  
*Baptism of Believers*

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**I THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM**

◆ **Baptism is commanded**

- It is the first command of our Lord to the church.
- *“Therefore go and make disciples...baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)) “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every living creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16)*
- Peter commanded Cornelius and his household to be baptised.
- *“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptised, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptised in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” (Acts 10:47-48)*

◆ **Baptism was practiced in the Book of Acts: every believer was baptised.**

- Repentance and faith (conversion) before baptism.
  - The Day of Pentecost  
*“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent and be baptised 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.’ Then they that gladly received his word were baptised: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:34-41)*
  - Philip baptised the believers in Samaria.  
*“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptised, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs that were done.” (Acts 8:12-13)*
  - Paul was baptised.  
*“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptised.” (Acts 9:18)*
  - Cornelius and his household

(Acts 10:47-48, see 1b above)

- Lydia

*“And when she was baptised, and her household, she besought us, ‘If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there.’ And she constrained us.”* (Acts 16:15)

- The Philippian jailor and his family

*“And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptised, he and all his, straightaway”* (Acts 16:33)

- Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and his family

*“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptised.”* (Acts 18:8)

- Nowhere in the Bible do you read of babies being baptised. Only believers.

*“... He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved...”* (Mark 16:16) *“Repent and be baptised...”* (Acts 2:38)

- There is no time factor between conversion and baptism.

They did not wait for a period of time before being baptised. They were never told to ‘prove’ themselves.

## **II THE MODE OF BAPTISM**

Baptism means to immerse, dip, plunge into or bury. Romans 6:3-4 says, *“Know ye not, that as many of us were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism...”* Here baptism is linked with burying. (See also Colossians 2:12)

- ◆ Jesus baptism *“...and Jesus, when He was baptised, went straightaway out of the water...”* (Matthew 3:13-16). John baptised in the Jordan *“because there was much water there”* (John 3:23). Why do you need *“much water”* if you are only sprinkling?
- ◆ The Ethiopian eunuch’s baptism *“... and they both down into the water”* (Acts 9:38)

## **III THE MEANING OF BAPTISM**

Baptism is a public and open profession of an inward change. Romans 6:3-5 shows that the new convert goes down into a watery grave, symbolically enacting his own death to the old life. When he arises he symbolises that he has risen and is ‘walking in newness of life’. As John

Rice says “At baptism, then, one professes that he believes in that old, old story that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again. He professes that he has had a change in his heart, that he now belongs to Christ, that he means henceforth to live for Christ.”

#### **IV WHAT MUST A CHRISTIAN DO ABOUT BAPTISM?**

“*Arise and be baptised*” (Acts 22:16). In Acts 22:16 (NIV) Ananias says to Paul, “*And now what are you waiting for? Get up, and be baptised...*”

The alternatives are: -

- ◆ To accept that man can change God’s Word to please himself, in order to accept sprinkling or pouring as the mode of baptism!
- ◆ To follow the modernists and just ignore baptism and leave it our altogether!

#### **V THERE ARE THREE OTHER BAPTISMS IN THE SCRIPTURES**

##### ◆ **Spiritual Baptism**

Where the Holy Spirit baptised you into the body of Christ. (Galatians 3:27 & 1 Corinthians 12:13)

##### ◆ **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Where Christ baptises you ‘with’ or ‘in’ the Holy Spirit. (John 1:33 & Mark 1:8)

##### ◆ **The Baptism of Suffering**

(Mark 10:38-39 & Luke 12:50)