

Title: Water Baptism
Matthew 3:13-17

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 3 begins with John the Baptist baptizing in the wilderness of Judea. Verse 13 records the Baptism of Jesus.

1. Baptism is really a very special _____ event in a believer's life.
2. It is a profound way of _____ proclaiming your faith in Christ.
3. It also demonstrates our _____ to Christ, who commanded baptism for His followers.
4. But had "Baptizo" been properly translated, rather than transliterated, it would have been rendered "_____."
5. You essentially "baptize" dishes when you _____ them because you immerse them in water.
6. John the Baptist immersed people in the Jordan River as a sign of true _____ and their belief in the coming Messiah.
7. Even though they'd been immersed in water, they would also be immersed in the _____.
8. Jesus _____ in the waters of affliction all his days until He was finally fully immersed in affliction and sorrows.

I. Baptism of Repentance - John's Baptism

9. The people of Israel engaged in various _____ washings.
10. The practice of immersion for the remission of sin or as an act of repentance was really _____ in the Old Testament.

11. John's baptism was a call to repentance of sins and an acknowledgment that the _____ was coming soon.
12. He was calling Abraham's descendants to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, without any reference to animal _____ or the shedding of blood.
13. John advocated more than a ceremonial cleansing; he promoted a _____ cleansing to prepare a person for the appearance of the Messiah.

II. Baptism in Faith - Jesus' Baptism In His Name

14. After His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus _____ His apostles about this baptism of faith.
15. A believer's baptism is a _____ proclamation of faith that you have asked Christ to be your Savior and forgive you of your sins.
16. It is also a public declaration that you have chosen to follow Jesus and be a member of the _____ of Christ, the Church.
17. As a follower of Jesus Christ, it requires your _____ choice to live your life as a Christian.
18. After the Resurrection, Jesus equates Himself with God the Father and states emphatically that all _____ is now His.
19. Jesus instructed them to do four things: Go (Evangelize), Make Disciples (Instruct and train others), Baptize Them (Water Baptism by Emersion), _____ Them - Release Them - (Empower them to evangelize)

20. Rather than concentrate exclusively on the descendants of _____, the apostles were now to go to "all the nations."
21. Baptism does not save you; _____ saves you!
22. Baptism is your _____ of Christ's saving work in your heart and that now you are a follower of Christ and a member of His body.
23. Christian baptism is an obedient _____ to that fact.

III. Baptism of Power - Holy Spirit Baptism

24. After Christ came and died, and was resurrected, and ascended into heaven, the Spirit of God came to _____ within believers.
25. It was this Holy Spirit baptism that _____ the deity and teachings of Jesus after He returned to heaven.
26. They also received the power of the Holy Spirit to manifest Christ's life and ministry through obvious and _____ gifts.
27. Peter clarifies that receiving the Holy Spirit is a gift from God and is the _____ as being baptized (or immersed) in the Holy Spirit.
28. "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" occurs when you receive the power and _____ of the Spirit and allow it to be released through you.
29. Human giftedness _____ will never convince anyone that a supernatural God loves us so much that he sent his Son to be our Savior.
30. Only the Holy Spirit can _____ a person into a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

IV. Conclusion

31. Paul suggests that there is one baptism that is _____ above all others.
32. It is the baptism into the body of Christ or what we call _____.

Before the cross, no one was ever baptized in the name (or authority) of Jesus or the Holy Spirit. When we read in the New Testament that the apostles baptized in the name of Christ, they were doing precisely what Jesus had told them to do. It is Jesus who saves, not baptism. Baptism is much more than a ritual or rite of the church. It's one of only two ordinances that Christ left to His church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both practices memorialize Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. They both focus on Him and His finished work. And both are to be observed by those who have consciously decided to follow Christ.

Answers

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| 1. hallmark | 12. sacrifice | 23. response |
| 2. publicly | 13. spiritual | 24. dwell |
| 3. obedience | 14. instructed | 25. confirmed |
| 4. immerse | 15. public | 26. verifiable |
| 5. wash | 16. body | 27. same |
| 6. repentance | 17. continuing | 28. giftedness |
| 7. Holy Spirit | 18. authority | 29. alone |
| 8. waded | 19. Teach | 30. draw |
| 9. ceremonial | 20. Abraham | 31. essential |
| 10. unknown | 21. Jesus | 32. Salvation |
| 11. Messiah | 22. testimony | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Have you been baptized? If so, what was that event like for you? What does it mean to you today? If not, why not?
2. How does baptized or "immersed" differ from dipped? How does this distinction change how you view your daily walk with Jesus and living after baptism?
3. How has the Holy Spirit drawn you to himself? What gifts and verifiable evidences have you seen in other Christians that has drawn you to faith in Jesus?