

## Series on Baptism

August 9, 2009

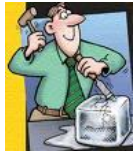
### Series on Baptism

#### The Power and Purpose of Baptism from a Scriptural Point of View (Part 2)

#### **SAME AS LAST WEEK PLUS NEW DISCUSSION ON PAGE TWO**

**Matthew 16:18; John 8:31-32; Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:1-7; Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:36-41; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-5**

Small Group Questions, Study, Discussion & Prayer (*Do NOT use all the questions, pick a few to discuss; use your own material*).



#### **Ice Breaker:** (Introduction, 5 – 10 minutes)

1. What activity of late have you greatly enjoyed with your family?
2. What activity of late have you greatly enjoyed with your friend or friends?
3. Who has greatly inspired you as of late? Have you told them thank you?



#### **Dig:** (Bible Study, 20 – 25 minutes)

1. Who is it that ultimately builds the church? (**Matthew 16:18**).
2. Whose teaching is it that sets men and women free? (**John 8:31-32**).
3. Who has all authority, and what does it mean to have all authority? (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
4. When Jesus calls on his authority before his disciples, what does he command them to do?
5. To whom does Jesus command his “Great Commission” in **Matthew 28:18-20**?
6. To whom does Jesus give the keys of the kingdom and what does this mean? (**Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:14-41**).
7. **Discuss: John 3:5.**
8. Who is the active agent in baptism? (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). Is it a man, a woman, an apostle or someone else?
9. How does one get into Christ? (**Galatians 3:26-27**). How does one become clothed in Christ?
10. What is the significance on Judgment Day of being clothed in Christ?
11. What does one lose at baptism? (**Acts 2:38**).
12. What two things does one receive at baptism? (**Acts 2:38**).
13. What is significant about receiving the Spirit of God as a “seal” and as a “deposit”? (**Ephesians 1:11-14**).
14. Why does baptism allow one to have the pledge of a good, clean or clear conscience? (**1 Peter 3:21**).



#### **Application:** (Living what we learn, 20 – 25 minutes)

1. Jesus said he will build his church. Do we sometimes have a struggle allowing him to lead us?
2. Jesus said if we hold to his teaching we would truly be free. Are we willing to be humbly led?
3. Baptism is by Jesus’ authority (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Are we willing to accept baptism by his authority, or do we try to find another way to enter his kingdom?
4. Do you consider yourself a Christian today? Have you been baptized into Christ according the authority of Christ?
5. Have you received the benefits of baptism? If not, would you like to receive the many benefits of baptism?
6. If you are in Christ, have you shared with others what it means to be baptized?
7. Have you been faithful in sharing your faith in Christ in a manner that humbly and faithfully leads others to salvation in Jesus Christ?
8. How can your small group encourage you to share your faith regularly?
9. How can you encourage the members of your small group to share their faith?
10. How can your small group fill the empty chair next week? (Do you remember what the empty chair is?)
11. The church is the only organization that has been empowered by the Lord to lead people to Christ!



#### **Prayer:** (Seeking God’s direction & blessing for our lives as we learn to be followers of Jesus, 5 – 10 minutes)

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1. Further Discussion: How has your baptism helped to encourage you to live a holy life?
2. Further Discussion: What did it cost Jesus to make baptism available to you?
3. Further Discussion: What did it take for Peter to come from being a coward at Jesus' trial to being a man of courage to proclaim Christ at Pentecost (where the same Jews could have crucified Peter)?
4. Further Discussion: What did the proclamation of the gospel cost the apostles?
  - a. Was the cost limited to only one thing?
  - b. What other things might it have cost the apostles and early disciples to live and share their faith?
5. Further Discussion: What has Christianity cost other Christians to live, share and proclaim their faith through the centuries?
6. Further Discussion: What does it cost to follow Jesus, to live, share and proclaim our faith today in America?
7. Further Discussion: What changes do we need to make in the church, in our families, in our lives to follow Christ today?
8. Further Discussion: Who would you be willing to share your faith with and bring them to the knowledge of a saving relationship in Jesus Christ?
9. Further Discussion: Should that person not accept Christ, who would you be willing to share your faith with and lead them to a saving relationship with Jesus?
10. Further Discussion: By what means and measure does the church of Christ grow?
  - a. What part is Gods?
  - b. What part is mans?
  - c. Can either part be missing, and still have a reasonable expectation for church growth and health?