**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

**PROFESSOR:** John Hendee

**CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

***Searching for its purpose and meaning in the New Testament***

Were people commanded to be baptized?

Who commanded them to be baptized?

Who was commanded to be baptized?

When were people baptized?

How were people baptized?

What was the manner or form of their baptism?

What were the qualifications in order to be baptized? What did they have to do before being baptized?

Who baptized them?

What day were they baptized on?

Where were they baptized?

How many people had to be there for their baptism?

What does being baptized represent or mean? What’s its purpose?

Were people baptized into Jesus, or into a church or denomination?

Does baptism have anything to do with our salvation?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| What is the first command Jesus said new disciples had to obey? |  | Matthew 28:18-20 |
| Is baptism an outward expression of an inward decision? | Where does it say that in the New Testament? Is there a verse or passage that clearly says that? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Some say we are saved just by being baptized. | Where does it say that?  Who believes this? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Some say baptism has nothing to do with our salvation. | Why do they say that? Where does it say that in the N.T.? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Some say that when one is baptized it is ‘into’ the church. | Where does it say that in the N.T.? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Galatians 3:27 |
| Are we saved by faith alone? | Are we saved by anything else? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_James 2:24 |
| Can you be a saved and not have the Holy Spirit? |  | Romans 8:9  James 2:26  I John 4:13-15 |
| Where does it say or teach in the N.T. as to when one receives the Holy Spirit? |  | Acts 2:38  Titus 3:5 |
| What does the New Testament say saves a person in Christ? | Calling on Lord’s name  Name of the Lord Jesus  Believe in the Lord Jesus  Blood of Christ  Jesus life and death  Hope  Confession  Name of Jesus  Gospel  Grace  Repent  Love the truth  Sanctifying work of the H.S. and belief in the truth  His mercy  Baptism, resurrection  Proclaiming Lord’s death  Love of truth | Acts 2:21  Acts 4:12  Acts 16:31  Romans 5:9  Romans 5:10  Romans 8:24  Romans 10:9-10  Romans 10:13  I Corinthians 5:2  Ephesians 2:5,8  Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19  2 Thessalonians 2:10  2 Thessalonians 2:13  Titus 3:5  I Peter 3:21  I Cor 11:26  2 Tess 2:10 |
|  | Are all of the above items necessary to be saved? | Can you be saved with only some of them? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Do you know the Hebrew word (synecdoche) synecdoche and what it means? | The part represents the whole.  The whole represents the parts. The Hebrews understood this concept. When speaking of a process that involved many items, you don’t need to name every part or step every time. If you use any one of the steps it is understood you are referring to and including all of them. By using one of the steps you aren’t leaving the others out. |  |
| There is a story that illustrates how God uses all the PARTS and how the WORK TOGETHER. | The story of a father and son.  A man and his son lived on a sea coast where there were treacherous rocks and fierce currents all the time. One day the father saw that a ship had crashed into a small outcroppings of jagged rocks off the coast. Their ship was being battered to pieces and they were drowning.  The father had mercy on them.  He ordered his son to go and try and rescue the downing men.  The son obeyed and went.  He rowed out to where the men were.  He yelled out to men.  He told them to grasp the oar.  He pulled them into the boat.  He rowed them safely to shore | Now here is the great question.  What ‘saved the men’?  Was it:  The Fathers mercy?  His command to the son to go?  The son’s obedience?  His rowing out?  The boat?  His yelling out to the men to grab on to the oar?  There grabbing on to the oar; their obeying his instructions?  Their getting into the boat?  His rowing them back to the shore?  Which ONE of those would you like to leave out?  It was the combination of many things. You can’t pick and chose and leave out what you don’t like. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Does the N.T. teach that we need to… | Yes or No? | Would we be saved without each item? Why or why not? | What does it say how and when each of these things happen? |
| Die with Christ |  |  | Romans 6:3 |
| Be buried with Christ |  |  | Romans 6:4 |
| Be raised with Christ |  |  | Romans 6:4 |
| Be united with Christ |  |  | Romans 6:4 |
| Be clothed with Christ |  |  | Colossians 2:12 |
| Wash away our sins |  |  | Acts 22:16 |
| Be forgiven |  |  | Acts 2:38 |
| Pledge our allegiance to Jesus |  |  | I Peter 3:21 |
| Be circumcised in Christ |  |  | Colossians 2:11-12 |
| Receive the Holy Spirit |  |  | Acts 2:38 |
| Believe |  |  | John 3:15 |
| Repent |  |  | Acts 2:38 |
| Confess |  |  | Romans 10:9-1- |
| Be baptized |  |  | Matthew 28:18-20 |
|  |  |  |  |
| James 2:18-24 |  |  | DO YOU WANT TO TELL GOD THAT BAPTISM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR SALVATION?  Jesus’ words:  [**John 14:15**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14:15&version=NIV)  “**If** **you** **love** **me**, keep my commands.”  [**Matthew 7:21**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:21&version=NIV)  “**Not** **everyone** **who** **says** to me, ‘**Lord**, **Lord**,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one **who** does the will of my Father **who** is in heaven. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Passage | What does it say about baptism?  When were people baptized?  Why were they baptized?  Who was baptized? |  |
| Acts 2:38 |  |  |
| 2:41 |  |  |
| 8:12,13 |  |  |
| 8:36,38 |  |  |
| 9:18 |  |  |
| 10:47,48 |  |  |
| 11:16 |  |  |
| 16:14,15 |  |  |
| 16:31-34 |  |  |
| 18:8 |  |  |
| 19:5 |  |  |
| 22:15,16 |  |  |
| Romans 6:3,4 |  |  |
| I Corinthians 10:2 |  |  |
| Galatians 3:27 |  |  |
| Colossians 2;12 |  |  |
| I Peter 3:21 |  |  |
| Titus 3:5 |  |  |

In the New Testament, God commanded that those who had chosen to become followers of Jesus to be baptized. The word baptize (Bautizo in Greek) means “to plunge or immerse.” That is the form of baptism that was practiced for the first centuries. MEN changed the form centuries later for a number of reasons. God never changed it.

The word for sprinkle is completely different and you never find it where the word baptism is spoken of. The only records of people being baptized in the New Testament are of people who:

* Had believed the Gospel
* Had repented, to follow Jesus
* And chose to confess their faith.

Why risk doing it man’s way rather than God’s foreordained way? Who is my Lord? Man or God? Who told me to be baptized? A church? A preacher? A theologian? Or Jesus? He died for me. He told me to do it and how to it. That settles it!

I recently read a comment that was very interesting. It is, “God has NO grandchildren.” The point is that no one is saved by the faith or actions of a parent or others. It is an individual decision. My parents, grandparents, pastor or priest can’t make a decision for me about Christ. They can teach me, encourage me but they can’t save me by having me “sprinkled” (baptized as some call it) as a baby. There is no example of that in the New Testament. It is my call, my decision. I have to make that decision and act on it in faith.