



Lighthouse Ministries International, Adelphi, Maryland WATER BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Adelphi, Maryland INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The second phase of sin in a Christian's life is the lost of joy in their salvation. The joy of going to church, the loss of joy in testifying to others for God, the joy of seeing souls saved. When this happens, we normally start finding fault with everything and everyone.

✓ SIN WILL BRING THE CHASTENING HAND OF GOD

Hebrews 12:6 "*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*"

Just as a good parent corrects and chastens his disobedient child, so is God forced to chasten us because of our disobedience and unwillingness to confess our sin. This chastening may come in different ways. It may be through disappointments; financial lose; it may be trouble upon trouble, but God our Father, must chasten us for sin. Don't ever forget that He does it because **He loves us!!**

✓ SIN CAN BRING PREMATURE DEATH

The most serious state of sin is when God's patience is exhausted and He turns you over to the devil for the destruction of the flesh (not the soul). This can occur when a believer refuses to turn from his sin and God after much chastening and conviction takes their life to stop them from sinning.

1 Corinthians 5:5 "*To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*" 1 John 5:16 "*If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*"

✓ SIN CAUSES GOD TO TAKE AWAY SOME PRECIOUS THINGS

Because of David's sin God took away someone precious to him, his child that was born out of a sinful relationship. 2 Samuel 12:14 "*Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.*"

A saved person who turns away from the Lord into sin and refuses to confess and make things right is headed for great sorrow. If necessary, God will take that which is most precious from us in order to bring us back to Him.

✓ SIN TAKES AWAY ONES TESTIMONY AND OPPORTUNITY TO GLORIFY THE LORD.

I can truthfully say, I have never seen a husband or wife who led their spouse toward receiving Christ who did not live a consistent Christian life themselves. I have never seen a neighbor, relative, friend come to Christ under the influence of a professing Christian who was not actively fighting sin in their own lives and living for the Lord.



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Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. . . .Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:2,8)

✓ **SIN STOPS A CHRISTIAN FROM MATURING**

Over our years in ministry we have seen that it is the obedient believer who matures in the Lord. The believer who is obeying the Bible and trying to live by God's Word has trouble just like everyone else. However, the difference is that the maturing believer is able to go through difficult times and not misrepresent the one who has called him or her to salvation.

The believer who follows the Word of God is being prepared in advance for the trials that will come their way. One real hindrance to our overcoming sin is to ignore the problem. Many times we know it is destructive, yet we try to justify it in any number of ways.

The most common excuse we use is to plead, "~~I'm too weak.~~" The fact is you really are, however that excuse doesn't hold water when we read, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" (Philippians 4:13)

Our pretext to make us feel better is dissolved in the face of Paul's exclamation, "*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*" (Colossians 2:10)

A believer has the God's power and in Christ we can overcome ANYTHING!

Another pretext we use is to say, "~~I am not really so bad, I don't do really terrible things~~", Another excuse is, "~~I have come a long way from what I was, in time maybe I will overcome this thing also~~".

The real problem these folks had was that they do not except that - ALL- sin, is sin. God does not give us the latitude to commit any sin. Why? **Because ALL sin is destructive.**

The effects of sin are accumulative:

A sin that is allowed to remain will affect your soul.

Think for a moment about why God commands us to turn immediately from all sin. What would you think of a parent who lets his/her child drink alcohol, but would not let them have hard drugs? A foolish parent indeed is one whose thinking is so warped.

GOD WANTS NO SIN IN OUR LIVES! HIS STANDARD IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.



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He wants us never to have to experience the harmful effects of any sin. What kind of God would he be if he overlooked our so called little sins. Two verses of Scripture put everything into proper perspective. Carefully read the following verses:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – New Life in Christ (WORKSHEET)

QUESTIONS: There is only one question for this lesson: In your own words, what do you think that the previous two verses personally mean to you. WRITE DOWN and share next class.

Part Five: A Clean Heart By Relationship with Jesus As Savior, Lord and Master

- ✓ Confession: Salvation - Romans 10:9 -10
- ✓ Grace: Salvation - Ephesians 2:8 - 9
- ✓ Confession: Praying Regularly - 1 John 1:7-9

A relationship with Jesus means that you have been:

- ✓ "Crucified With Christ" - Galatians 2:20
- ✓ "Raised With Christ" - Ephesians 2:1, 5-6
- ✓ "Denied yourself to follow Him" - Mark 8:34 -37

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – The Change (WORKSHEET)

Part Six: History and Doctrine of Baptisms

In Hebrews 6:2 the Hebrew writer is referring to water baptism(s), perhaps using plural terminology to illustrate the two main agents of Christian baptism: water and Spirit. The second possibility could be that the Hebrew writer, through the divine inspiration of God, was indicating that church members need to have a grasp of all forms of previous biblical baptisms, concluding with the fact that under the church dispensation there is only water baptism and baptism for the remission of sins.

We believe both aspects and positions are noteworthy, but the latter provides the Christian student with a clear pattern of Gods plan and leaves the person with the ability to contend for the faith more perfectly. The Bible does speak of other types of baptisms in the Old and New Testaments, but it is clear



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that by the time of this writing (the book of Hebrews) there was one Lord, one faith and one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

Baptism Defined

- ✓ *Baptized/Baptizo*: To submerge and to make fully wet for a religious purpose. It is to be identified with Christ and His teaching as was the case with the Israelites (1 Corinthians 10:2). Example: Acts 2:41
- ✓ *Baptism/Baptisma*: The result of being dipped in water. It is the completed act of baptism, the physical and the spiritual. Example: Colossians 2:12
- ✓ *Baptisms/Baptismos*: Ablution & washing. Example: Hebrews 6:2

Part Six B: Non Biblical Baptisms

Some cultures, denominations and norms have various meanings, significance and forms of Baptism.

Some common non-Biblical uses of Baptism include:

- ✓ When an infant
- ✓ Before a true conversion
- ✓ Mixed in a false religion

First Corinthians 10:1-4 illustrates that the passing through of the Red Sea was a type of Israelite baptism for the Jews. In addition, the teaching and doctrine of Moses was a type of baptism for the Nation of Israel. The teaching of Moses, as given to him directly by God, was the way in which they learned to identify with the only true and living God (Deuteronomy 32:1-4). Moses likens his divine teaching of God as various forms of water encountering and covering God's Old Testament people. The previous Mosaic passage resembles an action describing what Christ did for His bride/church, "*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word*" (Ephesians 5:26).

Part Six C: The Mechanics and Explanation of Why Water Baptism is practiced.

Around the time Ephesians 4:5 was recorded (A. D. 60-64) the church had been established for a few decades and only water baptism existed. Below is a list of all New Testament conversions. Each conversion/baptism consisted of the element water.

- ✓ Acts 2:38, 41 (First believers)
- ✓ Acts 4:4 (Second group of believers)
- ✓ Acts 8:12-13; 8:36-39 (Samaritans & Eunuch)
- ✓ Acts 9:18
- ✓ Acts 10:47-48 (House of Cornelius)
- ✓ Acts 16:15 16:33 (Lydia & household/Philippian Jailer & all his)



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- ✓ Acts 18:8 (Crispus & household)
- ✓ Acts 19:1-5 (The 12)

There has been the age-old debate as to whether or not baptism is essential to salvation. Water baptism is a doctrine of Christ and is required for one to enter into the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16; John 3:3-6; Acts 2:38).

Many people are confused over the necessity of water baptism because they fail to make the connection between God's Old and New Testament covenants. Although the Old Testament Law has been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:13-14), the Old Testament scriptures speak to and compliment the New Testament (Isaiah 52:15).

We baptize with using full immersion today to follow Jesus' example

- ✓ Making a true commitment to God
- ✓ In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- The Lord Jesus Christ

Males of the Israelite Nation did not have to be baptized in water they had to be circumcised at the age of 8 days (Genesis 17:10-12). This was a necessity without option that indicated a male was a child of God. Circumcision marked him as Gods elect. The biblical connection is made between Old and New Testament scripture as evidenced by Colossians 2:11-12 which speaks of the spiritual circumcision known as baptism. Based on verse 12 of the above passage, through water baptism God operates on the penitent believer and washes their sins away.

The other element that is often missed in understanding the baptismal command is the purpose of blood. Under Old Testament Law it was the blood of sacrificed animals that atoned for the sins of Israel, i.e. Leviticus 16:20-30. In the New Testament it is the blood of Christ that was shed for the remission of sins. The Hebrew writer said "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). The entire chapter 9 of the book of Hebrews speaks to the reality of the sacrifice and blood of Christ being more powerful and precious than that of animals.

It is baptism that **declares** that we have started a new life in Christ (Romans 6:4). It **symbolizes** that the Christian has been washed by the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5).

Why Do we Use Water?

To understand the essentiality of baptism a person must realize they need to be washed and the methodology of the washing. For the Apostle Paul to enter into the Apostleship he had to be personally taught by Christ (Galatians 1:12) and baptized into the body of Christ. If baptism was necessary for a man as awesome as Paul, surely it is required for individuals today.



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In relationship to the methodology, God said to Paul, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). For Paul to become a Christian he had to be immersed into water for the remission of his sins. Not only is baptism essential, it has the spiritual ingredients to save through a symbolic representation of the blood of Jesus atoned for our sins (1 Peter 3:20-21).

The doctrine/teaching of baptism rests in the fact that it is of water and is also one where the child of God receives the baptism (gift) of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Romans 5:5; Titus 3:5).

Student Activity: The Biblical Basis for Baptism (WORKSHEET)

Part Six D: Are There Other True Baptisms?

- ✓ ***Remission of sins***
 - ***Before Christ instituted baptism for the remission of sins*** (Acts 2:38), a man named John the Baptist, the second cousin of Jesus (Luke 1:36), paved the way for Christ to come, preaching the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:1-5). Although the baptism of John the Baptist was a baptism in water it was not for the remission of sins (Mark 1:9-11).
- ✓ ***Baptism of Repentance***
 - If men and women refuse to be baptized with the one baptism of today, they will eventually receive the final baptism of Christ, but it will not be for salvation it will be for damnation. John the Baptist spoke of the baptism of repentance, baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11-12)
- ✓ ***Baptism of Fire***
 - Nobody wants to receive the baptism of fire because it will be the casting of disobedient and self-centered people into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15, 21:8). The second death will be the sinner’s baptism of fire. This will be the immersing of the sinner into unquenchable fire for eternity.
- ✓ ***Baptism of The Holy Spirit***
 - Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God
 - Hebrews 6:2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

EXAMPLES OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM THROUGH OUT THE BIBLE:

- ✓ **Before The Cross, Flood and Ark:** Genesis 7:15 – 17; 7:23; 1 Peter 3:18-21



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- *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
- ✓ **Before the Cross, Red Sea and Moses:** Exodus 14:21 -22; 26; 30-31; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
 - *All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*
- ✓ **The Cross, John The Baptist and Repentance:** Matthew 3:1-2; 5-6
- ✓ **Cross of Jesus – Our Example:** Matthew 3:13 -17
 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
- ✓ **After The Cross Into The Body Of Christ:** 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 14; Galatians 3:26 – 28; Romans 6:1 – 6; Ephesians 1:13 – 14; Ephesians 4:4 – 6; Colossians 1:13 – 14; Colossians 2:9 -13
- ✓ **The Cross Of The Holy Ghost and Power:** Acts 1:4 – 8; Acts 2:1 -4; Acts 10:44 - 48
- ✓ **After The Cross With Fire:** Luke 3:16

Part Seven: Let's Learn Church Doctrine

Definition: *Noun*

- ✓ A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group.
- ✓ E.g. A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs: "the Monroe Doctrine".

Synonyms: tenet - ism - teaching – dogma

Apostle Paul had much to say about doctrine and its importance. Doctrine is simply the teachings of the Bible, God's Word. As Christians, we should know what the Bible teaches. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Here are some of the doctrines of Lighthouse Ministries International:

Doctrine of The Bible

We believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God (every word inspired and completely given to us), as we find in the original manuscripts. All portions of scripture are equally inspired and contain no contradictions. The 66 books we have complete the Bible, never to be added to or taken from. *Scripture References:* 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Rev. 22:18-19.