

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

- 1 * Matthew 28:19 Teach all nations and baptize them
"Baptizo" in Greek means: Immerse; Plunge under
- 2 * Matthew 3:13-17 "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up
straightway out of the water."
- 3 * Mark 1:1-11 "And straightway coming up out of the water...."
- 4 * John 3:23 John the Baptist baptized where there was much
water
- 5 * Acts 8:26-40 Phillip went down with the Ethiopian eunuch into
the water to baptize him
- 6 * Col. 2:6-12 "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are
risen with Him...."
The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the bell tower of a
Cathedral whose baptistry was a place where, until
the 15th century, Catholics baptized by immersion
- 7 * Romans 6:1-6 Jesus wants us to share in His death, burial, and
resurrection by baptism
- 8 * I John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also
so to walk, even as He walked."
- 9 * Mark 16:15-16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."
The dying thief was covered with the Life of Christ,
but he would have been the first one into the water
if he had had a chance
- 10 * Acts 2:36-39 "Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized,
every one of you...'"
- 11 * Acts 16:16-34 "Believing in God with all his house"
Only those who believe are ready to be baptized
- 12 * Acts 8:12 When they believed, then they were baptized
- 13 * Galatians 3:26-27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into
Christ have put on Christ."
- 14 * II Cor. 5:17 "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."
- 15 Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;
yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...."
- 16 * Col. 3:1-3 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things
which are above,"
- 17 * Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized,"
- 18 Rev. 1:5 "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins
in His own blood,"
- 19 * I Peter 3:21 "Baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away
of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good
conscience toward God,)"
Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work of
grace
- 20 I Cor. 10:1-4 God even had a type of baptism in the Old Testament
- 21 * Acts 18:24-28; Nothing was wrong with John's baptism - Jesus
* 19:1-5 received that baptism
There were some who were rebaptized when they
understood God's way better
- 22 I Cor. 12:13 "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,"
- 23 * Acts 10:44-48 "Can any man forbid water, that these should not
be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost"
- 24 * John 3:5 "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit,
he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."
- 25 * Ephesians 4:4-5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

HAVE YOU FOLLOWED THE SAVIOR?

Have you followed the Saviour in this ordinance of His own appointment, which He honored by His own example? Have you died to transgression and been buried with your dying Lord in baptism? If not, then we inquire, "Why tarriest thou?" Some say they tremble and hesitate, because it is a very solemn thing to obey this ordinance. True; but is it not a very solemn thing to disregard and neglect it? If we should tremble at the thought of obedience to the divine requirements, much more should we tremble at the thought of disobedience.

We invite the young. We believe in baptizing the children when they turn to Jesus, the children's loving friend. As personified by Wisdom, He says, "Those that seek me early shall find me." Proverbs 8:17. This is a precious promise; but if you neglect it, you will soon grow beyond it. By and by we may hear Him speaking thus: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Proverbs 29:1. Do not think it a hardship to serve the Lord; Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Proverbs 3:17. There is no peace found in sin. There is no sight more beautiful than to see young people give their hearts to God, and follow their Saviour in baptism. Angels in Heaven as well as saints on earth rejoice at the sight. Do not say that you will wait till you get older; if you are old enough to sin, you are old enough to repent. And remember, too, you are always old enough to die. There is no time for delay. "You know not what a day may bring forth." Many, very many, have deeply regretted that they put off the work of obeying God. But not one, no, not one of all the multitudes who have served God all their lives, was ever known to utter one word of regret that he early set out to follow his beloved Lord. Come now. "Now is the accepted time."

We invite the middle-aged. How often do those in the prime of life say, "When I get more settled in life, and old age comes on, then I will serve the Lord." Think what this means. Do you realize what an insult this is to your Creator?-what a contempt of the claims of the Saviour? It means that you take pleasure in trampling on the law of the great God; though He is the author of every blessing you enjoy, and has a just right to the affection of your heart and the service of your life. You choose to despise His authority and rob Him of that which is justly His, as long as you can do it successfully, or can find pleasure in it. But when you have spent the strength of your manhood or womanhood; when you have insulted the love of God and defied His warnings as long as you can, then, when your energies are failing, and your power to work in his cause is gone, you will come to him and offer him the privilege of taking you, a moral wreck, to save you from the consequences of your unutterable folly and wickedness.

Do you not wonder that God, the infinitely just God, spares you to pursue such a course? Is it not surprising grace that He ever is able to save an aged sinner? Are you sure that you will live to carry out your plans; that you will not be cut off in your obstinacy? Is the dear Son of God, who died to open a way of salvation to you, and now pleads His precious blood in your behalf -- is He less worthy of your best efforts, of the strength of your manhood, than Satan, who is ever seeking to ensnare you and to lead you on to ruin? Young Man, young woman, what are you doing? Whither are you going? Reflect. Stop! Your next step may take you beyond the bounds of mercy. Turn now from sin; die, yes, die to the transgression of God's holy commandments. Be buried with your precious Saviour, and rise to live unto God: to enjoy peace--His peace--a peace that passeth all understanding, even in this life, and eternal life and glory in His kingdom. Think of this joy and glory. And can you have it? Yes, you may; but do not delay, for the future has no certainties for you.

We invite the aged. What excuse can the aged offer for persisting in disobeying God? What hope of this life--what joy of earth--can stand between them and their duty to their Saviour? They will answer that it is hard to repent of a whole life of sin; hard to overcome habits of life so long settled; hard to change the whole current of thought, of feeling, and of action, when all have been so long established. They say, "If I were only young, how easy it would be to give my heart to God. If my sins were not so many, if my heart had not grown so hard in the years of my trifling and folly. Oh that I had repented in my youth! But now I fear it is too late." Let the youth listen to this and take warning. Too late! It is too late for you to linger, to trifle on the verge of eternity. Too late to waste any more precious time; you have none to spare. Jesus yet calls. Cast yourself on Him now, and prove the depth of His love. It may indeed be too late tomorrow. His mercy has followed you all your life. It lingers for you still. You cannot afford to add to the ingratitude of your past life by spurning the last call of mercy.

"Let youth in its freshness and bloom, come!
Let man in the pride of his noon, come!
Let age on the verge of the tomb, come!"

"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

