



# Life's VITAL ANSWERS

**How Sin is Washed  
Away.**



In Old Testament times animals were sacrificed as part of the ceremonial system. The shed blood of these animals pointed forward to the shed blood of Jesus on the cross. When Jesus died, it was no longer necessary to sacrifice animals, nor to observe the ceremonies that surrounded the sacrificial system. These Old Testament ordinances (rites or ceremonies) met their fulfillment in Christ. However in New Testament times other ordinances were introduced for Christians to practice. First of all we will notice the ordinance of foot washing, recorded in John 13:4-17.

### **Footwashing**

**John 13:10,14-15** Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,          I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Here is a definite New Testament command from the lips of Jesus. He made it very plain that we ought to practice this ordinance. To wash one another’s feet is not humiliating, but it is an act of humility. To render such a service to a fellow believer helps eliminate pride, and makes us tender hearted toward one another. It places one in the right frame of mind to partake of the Lord’s supper – the bread and the wine. Jesus said plainly, we ought to wash one another’s feet. In verse 10 Jesus said, He who is bathed (baptised) needs only to wash his feet (or is not required to be rebaptised when he sins) but is completely clean (foot washing is all that is required to symbolise our cleansing from the sins of the world). Baptism is a symbol of washing away sin. Acts 22:16.



therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

When we are baptised, we are showing our belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ almost 2,000 years ago. We are telling the world we believe Christ died for our sins and that He rose victorious from the tomb. We also recognise that baptism symbolises death to sin in our own life, and when we come up out of the water we walk in newness of life and no longer walk the pathway of the world.

**Galatians 3:27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Baptism is like a marriage service: we become united with Christ. Marriage is meant to last for life, but our uniting with Christ, symbolised by baptism, is to last for eternity.

**Acts 22:16** And now         ? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.



When we understand this requirement, God expects us to go forward into baptism. He appeals to our heart and asks us to make a total commitment. Baptism is Christ’s solemn command. It does not save us, but it is a sign that we have been saved; that we are born again. Remember the words of Jesus: “whoever believes and is baptised will be saved”. Friend, don’t risk eternity with a counterfeit baptism. Rise up and follow Jesus. “Arise and be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”.

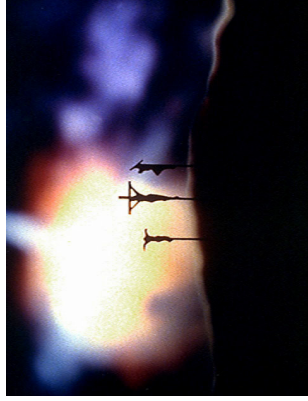
Do you desire to unite with Christ and be baptised the Bible way? \_\_\_\_\_



immersion.

**John 3:23** Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because \_\_\_\_\_, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

To baptise by sprinkling and pouring requires “little” water; but baptism by immersion requires “plenty of” water.



**Acts 8:38,39** And he gave orders to stop the chariot. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

The text is clear. The eunuch was baptised by complete immersion. In fact, the sprinkling of infants has no Biblical basis, rather, it has a pagan origin. It was introduced into the church in the third century, and sanctioned in A.D. 416. It was a departure from the pure truth introduced by Christ. Furthermore, baptism is for adults, not for children. Belief, repentance, confession and instruction are to precede baptism. This is not possible for a child. Baptism is an expression of faith that one is born again. Only those older in years make an intelligent decision in regard to the meaning of baptism.

**Colossians 2:12** . . . having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Baptism points to the cross and what it means to us. Our life becomes bound up with His and we live His life.

**Romans 6:3,4** Or don't you know that all of us who were \_\_\_\_\_? We were

## The Lord's Supper

**Matthew 26:26-28** While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

After the foot washing service on the Thursday night before the crucifixion on Friday, Jesus instituted an ordinance in association with the foot washing – the communion service, or the Lord's supper. The bread symbolised the broken body of Jesus – broken for sinful human beings. The wine symbolised His shed blood to cover our sins.



**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “\_\_\_\_\_”, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “\_\_\_\_\_”; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is a memorial service, for it takes us back to the cross, but it also points forward to when the Lord will return. No specific time is given as to how often this ordinance is to be celebrated. To do it too often would cause the significance to be lost, while to do it at too great an interval would tend to make one forget its significance.

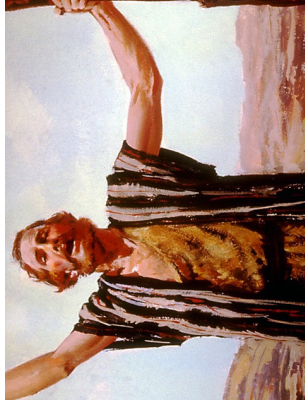
Unleavened bread (no yeast), and unfermented grape juice are used as symbols. Yeast is normally used in bread to make it rise, but in the Bible, fermentation is a symbol of sin. Alcohol is fermented grape juice and to maintain the symbolism, unfermented grape juice is used. Since there was no trace of sin in Jesus, it is fitting that only symbols of purity ought to be used to represent the Sinless One.

## Baptism

**Matthew 28:19,20** Therefore go and \_\_\_\_\_, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Here is the next New Testament ordinance – Baptism. Jesus said people were to be taught the truths of the gospel, then be baptised. Teaching and understanding precedes baptism.

**Mark 16:15,16** He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”



John the Baptist

Baptism here becomes an absolute necessity for salvation. If we are to have eternal life we need to believe and then be baptised. The objection has been raised “the thief on the cross was not baptised, yet he was promised eternal life by Christ”. This is true, but the thief on the cross was unable to be baptised; God does not expect the impossible. There are exceptions to every rule. If the thief were able, he would no doubt have followed out the commands of Christ. This text applies to those who are able to be baptised, not to those who are in an impossible situation, such as the thief was on the cross.

**Acts 19:4,5** Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, \_\_\_\_\_.

These followers of John the Baptist had been baptised, but were rebaptised when they came to a knowledge of Jesus. Rebaptism, when a greater understanding of truth has been attained, is Bibli-

cal. If however, one has been baptised on a previous occasion, acceptance into church membership is acceptable on “profession of faith”. It is left to the conscience of the individual.

**Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ . And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When one is converted to Jesus, the command is to repent, and then be baptised.

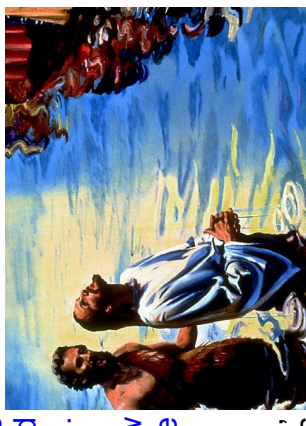
**John 3:5** Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

Baptism by water and the Holy Spirit are absolutely essential if one is to enter the kingdom of God.

**Ephesians 4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Many types of baptism are practised in Christian churches, such as sprinkling and pouring, but the Bible recognises only one way and that is by immersion. To baptise, means to dip, immerse, or to plunge. In Bible times it was the practise to “baptise” cloth for the purpose of dyeing. Complete immersion is necessary for this process.

**Mark 1:9,10** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.



\_\_\_\_\_ , he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Jesus did not need to be baptised, for He did no sin; but He gave His followers an example to follow. Notice that he came up out of the water, indicating that He went down into the water for baptism by