

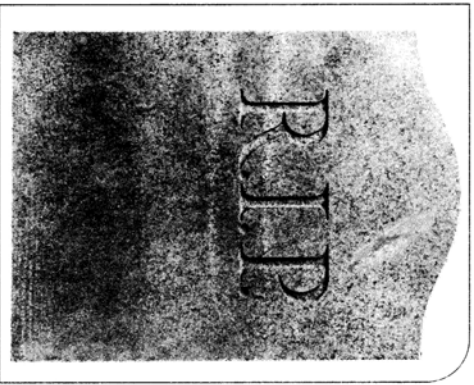
**NOTES**

IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION PRESENTS:  
**SEARCH FOR** **Certainty I**

**How to Successfully Bury the Past**  
 New Life in the 21st Century

**F**inal words are extremely important. Parting words are usually significant. Picture a family gathered around a hospital bed eagerly trying to catch every word of a dying loved one. Last words make a difference.

Christ's last words were some of the most significant He ever uttered. His final command to His disciples was, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20, NKJV).\*



Christ commissioned His disciples to instruct people in the principles of the Christian life. When they accepted the claims of His love and became disciples, the sign of their allegiance to a new life was baptism.

The subject of baptism does raise many questions. How important is Bible baptism? Is baptism essential to our salvation? Does it make any difference how a person is baptized? How many kinds of baptism are there? Are sprinkling, pouring, and immersion all the same? Our lesson today answers these questions directly from the Bible.

Does it  
 make any  
 difference  
 how a  
 person is  
 baptized?

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information on Bible study materials contact:

It Is Written  
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- ?** 1. How important is baptism? Mark 16:16

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES

- ?** 2. What did Jesus say to Nicodemus regarding the significance of baptism? John 3:5

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism is much more than a lifeless ritual. It is a deeply spiritual symbol of complete, total commitment to Christ, the burial of the old life and resurrection to new life in Christ.

- ?** 3. How many methods of baptism does the Bible recognize? Ephesians 4:5

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

There is one Lord, the Saviour Jesus Christ. There is one faith, true Bible religion. There is one true method of Bible baptism.

- ?** 4. How was Jesus baptized? Mark 1:9, 10

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

It is quite obvious that Jesus was fully immersed by John in the Jordan River. John's Gospel states that John was baptizing in the Jordan River because there was much water there (John 3:23). Full immersion is the only method of baptism described in the Bible.

- ?** 13. What gracious, loving invitation does Jesus give us to accept the salvation He so freely offers?  
Revelation 22:17

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus invites us to come to Him. Baptism is a symbol we are coming without reservation. We are coming completely. We are coming in total surrender to His will. As we come He promises to cleanse us from our past and give us a new life. We become part of His family, the church.

Have you been baptized by immersion? Do you have the assurance your guilt is completely gone? Is your past buried? Are you new in Christ? Why not make this decision now?

#### MY DECISION

- Loving Jesus completely, I desire to publically testify of my faith in Him. I choose to follow the example of my Lord in Bible baptism by immersion.
- I have been baptized by immersion but have drifted away and desire to be rebaptized.
- I have been baptized by immersion but have accepted new truths from God's Word and desire entrance into God's church by rebaptism.

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- ?** 5. How did Philip baptize the Ethiopian eunuch?  
Acts 8:38

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Both Philip and the Ethiopian entered the water. Philip then placed the Ethiopian completely under the water. To symbolize correctly death to the old man of sin, burial with Christ, and resurrection in Christ to a new life, the candidate must enter into the water, be completely covered by the water, and rise from the water. Baptism by immersion is the only biblical method.

- ?** 6. When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, what two significant things happened?  
Matthew 3:16, 17

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God descended upon Him, giving Him strength for the temptations to come. His Father spoke these words from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). When people are baptized today, God gives them new power for living and the assurance they are pleasing Him.

- ?** 7. Does God give us a greater indwelling of His Holy Spirit to strengthen us at our baptism? Acts 2:38, 39

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- ?** 8. What assurance regarding our past does Jesus give us at our baptism? Colossians 2:12; Acts 22:16

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism is a symbol of spiritual cleansing. The water of baptism itself does not save us, but it does signify we accept the blood of Christ, which does save us.

- ?** 9. What are the conditions God desires us to meet before baptism?

a. Acts 2:38 \_\_\_\_\_

Repentance is a deep sorrow for sin. It means a conscious desire to turn from those things that violate God's will and sadden His heart.

b. Acts 8:36, 37 \_\_\_\_\_

This belief is more than simply an intellectual assent to a particular creed. It is a heart commitment to Jesus and His Word. It is a turning to Him with all the heart, a belief that He is the Saviour, who alone can forgive sin and give victory in my life.

c. Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Although learning is a lifelong process and one should never wait until they feel they have grasped all truth before baptism, it is necessary to understand basic scriptural truths before making such a significant decision.

- ?** 10. What is the spiritual significance of baptism? Romans 6:3, 4

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism symbolizes a death to sin and a resurrection to a new life in Jesus Christ. Living for Jesus we are fully alive. Baptism by full immersion is the true symbol that we accept the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. Through baptism we now acknowledge we are walking in the "newness of life."

- ?** 11. Baptism is a symbol of commitment to Christ. Does it also signify commitment to Christ's church? Acts 2:41, 42, 47; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27, 28 (first part)

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism in the New Testament was into the body of Christ, or the church.

- ?** 12. If a person has been baptized once, should they ever be baptized again? Acts 19:1-5

The Bible answer: \_\_\_\_\_

In this instance Paul rebaptized believers who had been baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River but who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. As the truth about New Testament Christianity dawned upon their minds, they were rebaptized as a symbol of following all of this new truth. There are some Christians who have a new deep experience with Jesus as they discover new truths in the plan of salvation. They desire to become part of Christ's church and choose to be rebaptized.