

# *WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?*

## *Baptism is a great experience!*

*God will be pleased with your baptism as he was with the baptism of His Son, Jesus. Obedience brings happiness and baptism is the believer's first act of obedience. Your church will explain what arrangements need to be made for your baptism and will help you have a great spiritual experience.*

*Now that you have received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you will want to be obedient to Him. The first thing He tells you to do as a believer is to be baptized.*

*This brochure will help you understand what the Bible says about baptism.*



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

## ***Baptism is not optional!***

*Acts 2:38a tells us, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you . . ."*

*Jesus clearly commands all believers to be baptized (Matthew 28:19).*

*In every instance in the Bible where people are saved, they are baptized:*

*Acts 2:41 -*

*About 3,000 on the day of Pentecost.*

*Acts 8:38 -*

*The Ethiopian eunuch.*

*Acts 10:48 -*

*Cornelius and those with him.*

*Acts 16:33 -*

*The Philippian jailer and his family.*

*You should be baptized as soon as possible!*

## ***Baptism does not wash away your sins!***

*Revelation 1:5 tells us that Jesus . . . "has freed us from our sins by His blood." We are cleansed from our sins, not by baptism, but by the blood of our Savior.*

*The Bible says, ". . . and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." ~ 1 John 1:7*

*Baptism pictures this cleansing, but it does not do the cleansing!*

## ***Baptism is for believers only!***

*The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to be baptized. Philip told him, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." ~ Acts 8:36-37*

*A believer is someone who has made a personal commitment to repent of his sins and acknowledge Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.*

*Baptism is not for babies or children who have not yet come to understand that they are personally accountable to God for their sin.*

## ***Baptism is by immersion!***

*"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." ~ Acts 8:38*

*The word in the original text (Greek) for "baptize" literally means "immerse."*

*Jesus was immersed (Mark 1:9-10).*

*Only immersion can picture a burial and a resurrection. Sprinkling cannot do that.*

## ***Baptism is a picture!***

*Romans 6:3 tells us, ". . . all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death . . ."*

*Your immersion is your "show-and-tell" that your old sinful life is buried forever and that, with Christ, you are "raised to walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).*

*Placing the believer under the water portrays the old life of sin being buried. Bringing the believer up out of the water portrays the fact that one has been "raised to walk in newness of life" because of Christ.*

*Baptism is not salvation but a picture of salvation. It is an "outward expression of an inward reality!"*

## ***Baptism is a church ordinance!***

*Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." ~ Matthew 28:19*

*Jesus instructed the church to do baptizing. The church must see that it is done in the manner taught by the New Testament.*

*The believer is added to the church after he is baptized (Acts 2:41).*