

## **BAPTISM: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY? (2)**

By Keith Greer

According to the Random College Dictionary, "buried" means to "immerse; to plunge in deeply; cause to sink in." So, if one is to be "buried with our Lord in baptism," what would be involved for that action to truly be a baptism?

The New Testament was originally written in KOINA Greek, and the meanings of those words will not change. "BAPTIZE" is from the Greek word "BAPTISO" which means to "dip in water." So, do we have to know Greek in order to understand what baptism is? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

According to the scriptures, baptism is a burial, by which we are "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

Baptism must take place in water, and there must be enough water to "bury" or "immerse" an individual. (John 3:23; Acts 8:38) Anyone assuming otherwise would be in the realm of opinion and speculation.

Because baptism is "symbolic" of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, immersion is the only God-given pattern we can follow. Please consider this truth: One DIES to sin (death) BURIED in a watery grave (immersion) and ARISES (resurrection) to a new life. We have no authority to teach and practice any other patterns, such as sprinkling or pouring, as a substitution.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)

The only authority we have to do anything is that which we can find in the scriptures. Do you remember the words of Paul's letter to Timothy?

"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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16,17) One knows that baptism is a "good work." We can see the examples and teaching in the scriptures. Where is the authority for a different method?

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

"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." (1 Peter 3:21)

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:26,27)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3) Forgiveness of sins is a spiritual blessing – correct? All spiritual blessings can only be found in Christ – correct? How does one get INTO Christ? By the waters of baptism – correct?

Where can one look in the pages of God’s word that shows any other method used for baptism other than a burial, covering, or immersion? Where is one example of a person doing a **DIFFERENT ACTION** and calling it “baptism?” We have just begun to look at this subject and will continue in the next bulletin. \*\*\*