

## **Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 11**

### **THE SUBJECT SATAN HATES**

Parting words are often significant. Jesus' final words to His disciples were extremely important. Jesus was going on a journey, not for a week or two but he was going to be gone from them for good. They would not see His physical presence again on earth. They wouldn't see Him again until He came in the clouds of heaven. He'd be gone for the rest of their earthly life. And just before He left, just before He ascended to heaven, His final words were a command to all of His disciples in all ages, as recorded in the gospel of Matthew, which speaks to the subject we're covering today.

**Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Jesus said to His disciples, "Go out into the ends of the earth. Share My love. Share My Word. When men and women accept me, when they give their hearts and lives to Me and come to the place where they believe that I died for their sins and that they no longer need to be under the condemnation of guilt; when they understand what it really means to be a Christian, then baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Baptism certainly must be vitally important since Jesus Himself, used those last parting words to commission His disciples to go forth and baptize.

I would not be faithful to the Lord, and faithful to the commission that He gave to those disciples unless I shared with you what the Bible teaches about baptism.

**The Bible mentions baptism in the New Testament 80 times.**

**Question:** How important is baptism?

It seems everyone's got an opinion these days. But for the Christian, the only opinion that matters is what the Holy Spirit has inspired the men of God to put in their writings found in the Bible.

**Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”**

Baptism is extremely important as Jesus just gave us two requirements for salvation.

We have to take a stand and declare another allegiance.

Baptism is a symbol of a commitment, loyalty, and allegiance to Jesus Christ.

What is the symbol for Jesus' death, burial and resurrection?

**Romans 6:3-5 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection**

Our old life, the old man of sin, is to be buried.

**Baptism:** 1. Dying to old sinful way of life. 2. Burying our sins in the watery grave. 3. Rising up again out of the water to walk a new life. Our heart preparation needs to be based on our thought preparation.

**Matthew 28:19, 20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”**

Notice the passage in Matthew said go and **teach**.

**Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”**

So we preach and we teach. Jesus made it very clear, before you baptize people, teach them. Teach them what? "Teach them to observe, (that means obey). Observe what? All things I have commanded you." Teach them all my commandments, not just nine, teach them all ten!

**Question:** After we learn what we are to observe, what should our response be?

Acts 2:38 **"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"**

Acts 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."**

**Repent.** Repentance is a godly sorrow for sins committed.

There are no short cuts. Repentance is a condition of salvation and without it, one's sins cannot be washed away.

Proverbs 28:13 **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."**

2 Corinthians 5:17 **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."**

Our old life of sin is to be buried.

**Question:** What exactly is Bible Baptism?

### **One Truth - Many Counterfeits**

Ephesians 4:4, 5 **"[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism."** Many methods of baptism are used by churches.

1 Peter 2:21 **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."**

**Question:** How was Jesus, Who is our example, baptized?

Matthew 3:13-15 **"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer [it to be so] now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."**

Matthew 3:16, 17 **"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

Now Jesus did not need to be baptized, however, there were two reasons for it to be so. #1. He is an example for us; And #2. His baptism would cover for those who are physically incapable of being baptized, such as the thief on the cross.

Mark 1:9-11 Confirms Matthew **"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

John 3:23 **"And John also was baptizing in Ænon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized."**

**Question:** How did Philip baptize the treasurer of Ethiopia?

Acts 8:38, 39 **"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."**

**Question:** What does the word "baptize" mean?

The Greek word “**baptizo**” which means “to dip” under water or to “immerse” to plunge under.

Colossians 2:12 “**Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**”

**Question:** Where did all of this confusion come from?

It was not until the Council of Ravenna in 1311 AD that sprinkling and pouring were officially accepted as equally valid as immersion in the rite of baptism.

For the first thirteen centuries the almost universal practice of baptism was that of which we read in the New Testament, and which is the very meaning of the word “baptize”, - that those who were baptized were plunged, submerged, immersed into the water. *Christian Institutions*, by Dean Stanley, p.21

**Question:** What steps should a person take before being baptized?

1. The person has to **repent** of their sins. Matthew 4:17 “**From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

2. Accept Christ as his personal Saviour and experience the new birth. John 20:31 “**But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; ...**”

John 3:7 “**Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**”

3. Have a knowledge of the truth that leads to a desire to live an obedient and sanctified life. Matthew 28:20 “**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: ...**”

Conditions: 1. Repent; 2. Believe; 3. Learn

Can you teach a baby only four days old? Yes or no? NO! Can a baby repent of its sins? Yes or no? NO!

Can it believe on Jesus Christ and have a knowledge of Bible truth? Are you sure?

Then why would any parent have an infant baptized?

**Question:** What does the Bible say about those who put the teachings of men before the truth of God?

Matthew 15:9 “**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**”

**Choices:** Bible or Tradition? God’s Law or human rules? Jesus’ teachings or human thoughts? Divine command or human substitute? Truth or error? Genuine or counterfeit? God’s Way or man’s way?

Bible Baptism reflects the plan of salvation.

Bible Baptism reflects the Gospel.

**Satan’s plan to confuse:**

1. First, **deceive** the church about the *mode* of baptism

2. Then, **confuse** the church about the *meaning* of baptism

3. And finally, **convert** the church to a *mistaken day of worship* to fill the void created when it forgot that baptism was the institution God gave the church to commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

Romans 6:4, 5 “**Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead ...**” “**For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.**”

**Baptism** doesn’t mean you’re perfect, it means you’re committed.

**Baptism** is a symbol of commitment, loyalty, and allegiance to Christ.

**Baptism** can give us a new sense of direction, a new freedom, and a new spiritual power.

**Question:** What blessed ceremony can be compared to baptism?

Ephesians 5:25 “**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.**”

Galatians 3:27 “**For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**”

Moses and the children of Israel putting blood on the doorposts. That was an outward sign of an inward commitment. Just like baptism.

**Question:** Who should be baptized?

1. No previous immersion.
2. An empty form of Christianity.
3. Strayed far from Jesus.
4. New life changing truth.

**Question:** Should a person ever be re-baptized?

Acts 19:2-5 **“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”**

2 Corinthians 6:2 **“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”**

**Question:** What happens when we are are baptized?

1. Every sin from that time past is forgiven
2. The Holy Spirit is given.
3. Then are adopted into God's family.

Romans 8:14, 15 **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”**

John 1:12 **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”**

Story of Naaman in the O/T. Naaman was Captain of the Syrian host, a high ranking military leader, and was a leper. Read the whole story in 2 Kings chapter 5. In particular, verse 10 says, **“And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.”**

1 John 3:22 **“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”**

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The apostle Paul was tempted to put off his baptism. After all, he had persecuted the church! He had killed Christians. If there was ever anyone who should wait till he had proven himself it might have been Paul! And Paul thought that way. And what did God do? He gave a vision from heaven to Ananias to tell him to give a special message to Paul to be baptized. Baptism is the door to the church. And Paul was to walk through that doorway.

Here Ananias relays God's message and tells Paul,

Acts 22:16 **“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

**Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized.**

Baptism is not the graduation.

Baptism starts a committed life to Jesus.

All heaven is filled with joy with each sinner who has followed their Lord in baptism.

## **The Next Class** Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 12 **“God's Way of Salvation”**

