

Be Comforted

When Christians are down and out and fall on hard times, they can gain comfort from God to get through. Paul wrote to Christians in 2 Corinthians 13:11 and Colossians 2:2 and said, "Be comforted".

Where and to whom can Christians turn for comfort? Well, if they are married to a faithful Christian, they can turn to a godly spouse like Isaac did after the loss of his mother (Genesis 24:67). They can turn to a loving family (1 Chronicles 7:22) or to friends like Job did when he was suffering (Job 2:11). They can turn to faithful Christians like Paul did after he was beaten in Philippi (Acts 16:40).

A Christian experiencing hard times may not be married or have a physical family to turn to. However, they will always have a "church family". Faithful Christians can always comfort us with their faith (Romans 1:12), zeal (2 Corinthians 7:4, 6-7, 13), kind words (1 Thessalonians 4:18), volunteer work (Colossians 4:8, 11), and love (Philemon 7).

Christians can also turn to God in prayer (Psalm 86:7, 17) and to God's word (Romans 15:4-5) for comfort.

If you are not a Christian, obey the gospel today, and gain the comfort that God has for you. If you are a Christian, always remember the comfort that God has for you and use it get through those troubled times in your life. - *Chris Reeves*

Upcoming Events

- August 19: Ladies' bible class at Heather Jackson's house, 12 noon.
- August 26: Teen bible study at the Montague's house, 1 pm.
- September 21-24: Gospel meeting with Tim Haile, 7 pm weeknights, regular times on Sunday.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

A Study of Baptism - Part I

The subject of baptism is a much needed study today. There is confusion and controversy on baptism among people of different religions and there are those who need to learn what the Bible says about it.

There is also a need for Christians to be reminded of their baptism. Paul reminded the Christians in Rome of the importance of their baptism (Romans 6:2-3) and the Christians in Corinth of their baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13).

What does the New Testament teach about baptism? "Baptism" is a transliterated word (meaning, to spell in the characters of another language). Baptism comes from the Greek word *baptisma*. You can see how "baptism" looks like "baptisma". This is transliteration.

There are 119 occurrences of the Greek word for baptism in the New Testament. *Baptizo* meaning "to dip; immerse; plunge", is found 80 times. *Baptisma* meaning "immersion; submersion; emergence", is found 22 times. *Baptistees* meaning "one who baptizes", is found 14 times. *Bapto* meaning "to dip", is found 3 times.

There are four different truths about baptism that we want to examine in this article and the one to follow next week: 1) the types of baptism, 2) the action of baptism, 3) the candidate for baptism, and 4) the design of baptism.

In this article, we want to study the nine different types of baptism that are mentioned the New Testament.

First, there was the baptism of John. John, the cousin of Jesus, is called "the Baptist" 14 times in the New Testament (Matthew 3:1; 11:11-12; 14:2,8; 16:14; 17:13; Mark 6:24-25; 8:28; Luke 7:20,28,33; 9:19). The Greek word *baptistees* (baptist) describes one who baptizes (action). John "the baptist" describes John who baptizes others. "The baptist" is not John's name as many today suppose.

The baptism of John is mentioned in the following scriptures: Matthew 3:6-7,11,13-17; 21:25; Mark 1:4-5,8; 6:14; Luke 3:3,12,16-17,21; 7:29-30; 20:4; John 1:25-28,31,33; 3:23; 10:40; Acts 1:5,22; 10:37; 13:24; 18:25; 19:3-4.

When you read the above mentioned scriptures, you learn that John's baptism was a baptism in water, administered by John to all sinners, "unto repentance" and "unto remission of sins". This baptism was designed to prepared people to receive Jesus when he came (Luke 1:17; Acts 19:4).

Second, there was the baptism of Jesus' disciples (John 3:22-23,26; 4:1-2). It was the same as John's baptism. To prepare people.

Third, there was the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11; Mark 3:16-17). It was the baptism of fire, administered by Jesus to all unbelievers with eternal judgment and punishment.

Fifth, there was the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16-17; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 10:47; 11:15-16). It was baptism ("filled with") of the Holy Spirit, administered by Jesus, not to all people, but to the 12 apostles (Acts 2) and Cornelius' household (Acts 10).

Sixth, there was the baptism (washing) of the Jews (Mark 7:4; Luke 11:38; Hebrews 6:2; 9:10). It was baptism in water, administered by the Jews to the Jews for ceremonial cleansing or washing.

Seventh, there was the baptism of Israel (1 Corinthians 10:2). It was baptism in water (metaphorically) with the cloud above them and the Red Sea around them.

Eighth, there was the baptism of suffering (Matthew 20:22-23; Mark 10:38-39; Luke 12:49-50). It was baptism in suffering and sacrifice, administered by the enemies of Jesus to Jesus and his apostles.

Lastly, there was the baptism of the great commission (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16). It was baptism in water, administered by Jesus' apostles to all sinners (the world) for the remission of sins.

Everyone today must be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5 is the baptism of the great commission and it's for everyone today. Will you be immersed in water for the remission of your sins? - Chris Reeves