

God's Purposes in Baptism
Romans 6:1-7

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1. Of all the issues that divide Christians, none is more hotly debated than baptism.
2. The Bible does speak about baptism and those of us who believe the Bible must search the Scriptures until we find satisfactory answers.
3. One of the best ways to study a biblical theme is by simply doing a Scriptural survey.

I. Baptism in the Gospels.

- A. A good place to begin is with the baptism of John. (**Mark 1:4**)
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 2. The Levitical law required all priests to be consecrated.
- B. Turn now to **Matthew 28:19-20**.

II. Baptism in the Book of Acts.

- A. Notice what the Bible records about the teaching of the early church.
 1. **Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13; 8:36-38; 9:18; 16:14-15; 16:31-33; 18:8; 19:4-5; 22:16.**

III. Baptism in Romans. (Romans 6:3-4)

- A. Baptism always takes place after belief.
 1. **Romans 6:3-4**
- B. Baptism then, means at least 3 things:
 1. It is a turning from the old life of sin.
 2. It is a public identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
 3. It is a total commitment to join those who believe in Christ.
- C. How important is your baptism?
 1. It is your personal identification with the greatest act of human history--the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

IV. The Biblical Mode of Baptism.

- A. In the early church, the mode of baptism is immersion.
 1. The Greek word translated "baptize" is the verb baptizo. The primary meaning is "to dip, plunge, or immerse."
- B. A brief survey of the how of baptism in the New Testament reveals the following interesting facts:
 1. Baptism requires water. (**Matthew 3:11**)
 2. Baptism requires plenty of water. (**Acts 8:36**)
 3. Baptism requires going down into the water. (**Acts 8:38**)
 4. Baptism requires coming up out of the water. (**Acts 8:39**)