

Week Eight: Teachers Guide "Repentance & Water Baptism"

[You'll notice the prompts to show slide. These are optional. However, you will notice that they will enhance the experience by placing images to words as your share certain aspects of the Bible Study]

Overview:

1. Intro
2. Look to the Bible for the Plan of Salvation
3. What is His Plan for Us?
4. Repentance
5. Water Baptism
6. Method of Baptism
7. A Clear Plan for Salvation
8. The Name of Jesus
9. New Testament Covenant
10. Age and Requirements of Baptism
11. A Necessary Component of Salvation
12. Closing

1. Intro

Brief Week Seven Recap

Last time we got together we looked at how:

[Show WEEK SEVEN Title Slide from last week]...

“Who Is Jesus?”

Jesus Christ is God manifest in flesh. He’s not a co-equal or co-eternal being... He was literally the Old Testament God in flesh. One in the same.

The Lord took on flesh to pay the price for our sins by shedding His blood on the Cross.

He did it because He loves you and I so very much.

Before we start, we always want to ask God to bless the lesson and help us to draw closer to Him... PRAY!

[Show Title Slide for THIS week... “Repentance & Water Baptism”]...

Look to the Bible for the Plan for Salvation

When we start to talk about the concept of “salvation,” sometimes people can get very defensive.

1. Are you saying I’m not saved?
2. What about my great grandma?
3. My church teaches this...

This has never been about “winning an argument,” or “putting one denomination against another.”

This is simply a study of the Word of God.

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 3:4 (KJV)

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

When something is clearly stated in Scripture, it is not about one denomination or another. It is about obedience to God Almighty.

And, as we have talked about throughout this entire Bible study, God has established a theme of:

[Show Slide with “Grace, Faith, and Obedience”]...

1. Grace,
2. Faith,
3. Obedience.

So if God shares a plan for salvation for His people, **that is grace.** We make a decision to choose to believe or not believe, **that is faith.** Yet even when we say we believe, what will we do about it? **This is obedience.**

If it is in the Word of God, then it is obedience to God Almighty.

As much as we might respect any:

1. Pastor,
2. Priest,
3. Deacon,
4. Pope,
5. Bishop,
6. Monk,

“Let GOD be true and every man a liar.”

[Show Scripture]...

Hebrews 5:9 (KJV)

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Notice two key points in that passage...

1. God is the author of salvation. He has this right because He is the One who purchased our salvation and that gives Him the right to set the parameters of the Plan for our salvation!
2. He expects OBEDIENCE to this plan He established.

What is His Plan for Us?

Before we can discuss the plan, we first need to acknowledge the problem.

Many people do not even see the need for salvation.

They think, **“I am a pretty good person, I haven’t really done anything terrible.”**

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 3:23 (KJV)

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Bible makes it clear that there is definitely a problem and a price that needs to be paid to correct it. Even if you only sinned one time in your entire life (**yeah right, we all have sinned and messed up much more than that!**)....

But even if it was just one mistake...You are a sinner. So am I.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

20 Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.

Because God is always just, He did not overlook the fact that He required a price to be paid.

This is why He manifested Himself in flesh and came to earth as God to pay that price for our sin.

Jesus did not only come to pay for our sin, but **He also came to be our "example!"**

He died on a cross for our sins, He was buried in a grave, and then He rose from the dead three days later.

[Show Slide with "Death, Burial, and Resurrection"]...

This is known as His, "Death, Burial and Resurrection."

Well, we also need to follow His "Death, Burial and Resurrection," but how in the world do we do that?

I don't want to die!

Repentance

Just as the first step of God's plan in the Old Testament Tabernacle was the Altar of Sacrifice... a place of bloodshed, death, and sacrifice...

Look what the New Testament says for us today...

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 12:1 (KJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Our lives become the sacrifice. The things we lay on an altar to God and **"die out to self."**

This is why the Apostle Paul said...

[Show Scripture]...

1 Corinthians 15:31 (KJV)

31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Paul said, **"I die daily."**

1. What does he mean by this? How can we die every day?
2. This is how we identify with Christ and die out to self...

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 6:10–12 (KJV)

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

New life, or what the New Testament calls **“New Birth,”** can only take place when we first “die to sin.”

This can only happen when the believer responds in obedience in the act of Repentance.

There is a reason that in that Old Testament Tabernacle, the Altar of Sacrifice was so big that every other piece of furniture could fit inside it!

We cannot long for the presence of God and skip the sacrifice.

We cannot just dream of a fulfilling life in Christ, but not be willing to lay down the sinful life we might currently lead.

[Show Slide on Road with Repentance –

The word “repent” means to **“make an about face.”**

Look what it means to “make an about face”:

**act of pivoting 180 degrees, especially in a military formation
change one's mind and assume the opposite viewpoint**

Repentance is changing your mind about the direction your life is heading.

Repentance **does not necessarily change your current location now**, but it changes your outlook, where you want to go, and where you are looking.

It's a pivot in your direction... a complete 180-degree turnaround.

Maybe up to this point in your life you have been only interested in things for yourself, and you have not been too interested in God, His Word, or the plan He has for you.

Repentance would be a **CHANGE IN YOUR MINDSET** about where you are headed and what you want out of life.

It is basically becoming more interested in the things of God and what He wants to do in your life, and then actually be willing to actually DO something about it!

After all, remember in our first lesson we talked about some Scriptures where God makes it clear that there are things He wants us to DO.

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 7:21 (KJV)

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

"DOING" does not mean **"earning our own salvation."**

It simply means RESPONDING to God's plan for salvation that He made possible for us by His sacrifice!

Just like God laid out all those exact plans for:

1. Noah's boat,
2. Abraham and circumcision,
3. The Israelites and their sacrifice,
4. The Tabernacle,

Repentance is the first step that God lays out for His plan for us to be saved. They couldn't skip steps in God's plan in the Old Testament. We cannot just alter God's plan or skip steps either!

[Show Scripture]...

Luke 13:3 (KJV)

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:5 (KJV)

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus didn't repeat Himself verbatim very often.

Without true repentance... we will absolutely perish without salvation!

But **HOW** do we repent?

Listen, we don't like people that are fake!

Well, we are made in the image of God and He also wants us to be real with Him as His creation.

He already knows you better than you know yourself, might as well be real!

Think about this...

Imagine if one of your friends always talked to you from words he or she had written down on paper:

[TEACHER, Read example mono-tone:

"Hello. How are you? Are you enjoying school? How is your job? Are the kids doing well? We should get together sometime."]

That would be a HORRIBLE and BORING relationship!

When you confess your sins in repentance, you are:

1. Changing your mind about the direction you are currently heading.
2. Admitting that you are a sinner and need God's help.
3. Saying that you are sorry.

After all, it is our sin that actually put the nail in His hand. But you don't have to read a prayer or sound really smart! God loves you for who you are and the way He created you! Just talk to Him about the way you feel and repent in your own way!

Water Baptism

Once I have repented, what do I do now?

Out of Christ's "Death, Burial and Resurrection," we have now obeyed the "Death" by "dying out to our self," which means repenting.

Now there is the "Burial" portion, but how do we do that?

[Show Scripture]...

Romans 6:3–4 (KJV)

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 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.

To "BURY" means to:

1. Submerge,
2. Engross,
3. Cover up,

Just based on the definition of the word alone, the Biblical method for baptism calls for the water to:

1. Submerge,
2. Engross,
3. Cover us up,

And so we obey the "Burial" of Jesus by being baptized!

But just like Jesus was not buried alive, we cannot be baptized until we have repented!

1. Think about when we bury someone.
2. If we bury them after they die, that is called a "funeral."
3. If we bury them alive, that's a "homicide."
4. God doesn't call the believer to bury something that's alive, He calls us to bury that which has died.

In this case, when we repent and die out to self, we are now ready to be "buried in baptism."

[Show Scripture]...

John 3:1–5 (KJV)

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Wow! Jesus makes something really clear when He says that unless we are born of the “water and spirit,” we cannot enter into His kingdom!

He is literally saying that I can’t go to Heaven without being born of the water and Spirit!

I want to know for sure what He means by the “Water,” and what He means by the “Spirit!”

We will spend our remaining time here looking at what the Bible says about the **“water.”**

For our next lesson, we will look at what the Bible says about the Spirit.

Method of Baptism

What is the water and does it matter HOW I am baptized?

Why does it matter which way we are baptized?

1. Some churches put people underwater and bring them back up.
2. Other churches sprinkle water on heads.
3. Others pour water on heads.
4. Some churches baptized in the name of Jesus.
5. Some churches baptize and call out the titles, “Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”
6. Some churches will baptize infants.
7. Some churches will only baptize adults.

Baptism is more than just “joining a church.”

It is not just an **“outward sign of an inward faith.”**

Remember, we have talked over and over about God is a **“Covenant”** God.

With Abraham, God established a covenant relationship and established parameters for Abraham and his family to follow if they wanted to remain in covenant.

God even had Abraham **“take on a new name.”**

We actually do that same thing in the New Testament.

When we are baptized, we take on the Name of Jesus and enter into a committed covenant relationship.

[Show Scripture]...

Ephesians 4:4–6 (KJV)

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

God never intended for there to be hundreds of different religions and beliefs in our world! The reason there are all these different beliefs is someone somewhere along the line added or took away from God’s Word... and we learned right from our first lesson that this is not what God wants! Now there are all kinds of problems and confusion about what is right!

The safest thing you can do is just look in the Bible (which we learned that we can totally trust), and God will make it clear what He wants from us in this covenant relationship to which He invited us.

The New Testament was written in the Greek language, so it is important to understand what the words meant to the people that were writing these words down.

The Greek word for **“baptize”** actually means to **“cover wholly with fluid.”**

If you spoke to any Greek linguistic specialist, that person will always tell you that the way the word was initially written means to be immersed (**or completely covered**) in water!

INTERESTING NOTE:

[Show Slide with Quotes]...

Here is a quote from The U.S. Catholic Magazine, February, 1979:

"At first baptism was administered in the name of Jesus."

"Certainly, the first Christians baptized by immersion."

[Show Scripture]...

John 3:23 (KJV)

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

John the Baptist was known as the "Forerunner to Jesus Christ."

He baptized at a place with a lot of water.

Now if we only needed to sprinkle water on someone, why does the Bible make it clear that there was a lot of water there?

Look at a time when an authorized Evangelist of the New Testament church was preaching to a well-respected Ethiopian traveler...

[Show Scripture]...

Acts 8:35–39 (KJV)

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 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.
39 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.

Why does Scripture make it clear to us that they **“went down into the water”** and then **“came up out of the water”**?

It’s because the method actually matters!

[Show Slide of Someone Being Baptized]...

In order to be baptized according to the Bible, we have to be “submerged” in the water. It is the very meaning of the word, and the method that we see exercised throughout the New Testament.

The water must “cover us up!”

If we want to be “Christians,” that means to be “like Christ.”

Well, even Jesus Christ was baptized by immersion (which means to be put under water).

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 3:16 (KJV)

16 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:

Does baptism take care of ALL of my sin?

When you combine repentance along with baptism, every single mistake and bad thing you have ever done can be washed away!

Repentance is your part = Saying you are sorry and changing your mind.

Baptism is God's part = **Washing away all of our sins.**

There were people in New Testament times who were just like us.

1. They heard a message of hope that comes from the Cross.
2. God's GRACE was reaching out to them.
3. Now they wanted to respond but were unsure how.

A Clear Plan for Salvation

That's why Peter makes this clear when someone asked him a question about what they need to do to follow God's New Testament plan for their salvation.

[Show Scripture]...

Acts 2:37–39 (KJV)

37 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?

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.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Peter clearly lays out what both they (and us today) need to do to be saved.

This is a succinct synopsis of the New Testament plan for salvation!

1. Repent (which we just talked about),
2. Be baptized in the Name of Jesus (which we are now talking about),
3. And then you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (which we will talk about next week).

The Name of Jesus

Look at the “**pattern**” to which Peter says they should be baptized.

He tells them to do it in the Name of Jesus Christ!

Some confusion for modern society comes in based on what Matthew records that Jesus said as He ascended into Heaven after His resurrection.

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**:

But the Apostles did not seem to be confused by this in the least.

As we talked about in our last lesson, they now fully understood that Jesus Christ was God manifest in flesh.

So, the NAME of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost was “JESUS!”

Otherwise, when Peter said for the onlookers to be baptized in the “Name of Jesus Christ,” the other disciples would have corrected him and said to do it in the titles of the “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

There was no need to do that because the NAME of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is JESUS CHRIST!

[Show Scripture]...

Acts 4:12 (KJV)

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

As we have been discussing throughout this Bible study...

[Show Slide with the Name of JESUS]...

There is so much power in a name!

Just as a bride takes on the **NAME of her husband** at a wedding ceremony...The church can become the **"Bride of Christ"** by taking on His Name in the waters of baptism!

New Testament Covenant

And when we take on that Name in baptism, we also enter into covenant relationship just as Abraham did!

[Show Scripture]...

Galatians 3:27 (KJV)

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

[Show Scripture]...

Galatians 3:29 (KJV)

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

As a matter of fact... Look at this chart of how people were baptized according to the Bible.

[Show Slides on How People Were Baptized According to the Bible...

The NAME was integral to the method of baptism!

(Teacher: Feel free to use whatever Scriptures off this chart, but I would also give some type of a handout with this chart on it):

Age and Requirements of Baptism

At what age or point in life should someone be baptized?

[Show Cycle of Life Graph With Aging Person]...

Some have used the terminology, "Age of accountability." This is not a Biblical term, but I understand the reason for its usage. Any time someone was baptized in the New Testament, there was always a number of things that took place.

1. Seeing,
2. Believing,
3. Understanding of the Cross and what Jesus did,
4. Repenting,
5. Making a decision,

So, we must ask ourselves, at what age can someone capably do these things and make a decision and repent for themselves?

For some, this may be at the age of six where a child understands that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and they want those sins washed away. For others that may not be until they are older.

If baptism always required not only being fully immersed in water, but also all these areas of understanding and comprehension, **then there is just no Biblical way that an infant can be baptized.**

A Necessary Component of Salvation

Baptism **is more than** just “joining a church.”

It is **even more than** just “entering into a covenant.”

The Bible makes both repentance and baptism necessary components for salvation and eternal life.

[Show Scripture]...

Mark 16:16 (KJV)

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

[Show Scripture]...

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

It is not about “holy water” or the magic in the water.

It’s about our conscience and response to God’s **GRACE** as we respond in **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE!**

Notice how the “Foundational Theme of Salvation” still remains?

[Show Grace, Faith, and Obedience Slide Again]...

GRACE:

Jesus died on the Cross and shared His clear plan with us for our salvation.

FAITH:

We will either choose to believe it or not believe it.

OBEDIENCE:

If we choose to put our faith in Him and His plan, we must now obey it.

[Show Scripture]...

Acts 22:16 (KJV)

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

There were no “delayed baptisms” in the New Testament.

When God’s grace reached out to someone, and they chose to put their faith in Him, their response was immediate.

So what is keeping you from being baptized?

And if you have been baptized before, but not in the method you have now seen in Scripture, we do have Scriptural evidence for people being RE-baptized by immersion in the Name of Jesus...

Acts 19:1–5 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 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.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism.

4 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.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Closing

The only Biblical pattern we see for entering into this amazing **COVENANT** with Jesus Christ is this:

1. To be at an age where you can understand and make a decision to serve the Lord,
2. To repent of your sins,
3. To be fully immersed in water,
4. And to take on the the Name of Jesus Christ as your sins are washed away.