

## LESSON 17

## BAPTISM.

## I.

**I**N those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye : for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins ; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come ? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham for our father : for I say unto you,

that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade 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 fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 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.—*Matt.* iii. 1-17.

## II.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ,

the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; and preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

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.—*Mark* i. 1-11.

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.—*Matt.* xxviii. 18–20.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.—*Mark* xvi. 14–17.

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. 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. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word, were

baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers.—*Acts* ii. 38–42.

## III.

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose, and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning; and sitting in his chariot, read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up, and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter: and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and

who shall declare his generation ? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this ? of himself, or of some other man ? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

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 ? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. 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.—*Acts viii. 26-39.*

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed, were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water,

that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.—*Acts* x. 44–48.

## IV.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God : and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken : and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm ; for we are all here.

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes ; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat

before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.—*Acts* xvi. 25–34.

And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made ; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us ; whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there.—*Acts* xvi. 13–15.

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.—*Rom.* vi. 3, 4.

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.—*Colossians* ii. 12.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.—*Gal.* iii. 27.

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. 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.—*Acts* ii. 38, 39.

## The mechanics of the baptism ceremony:

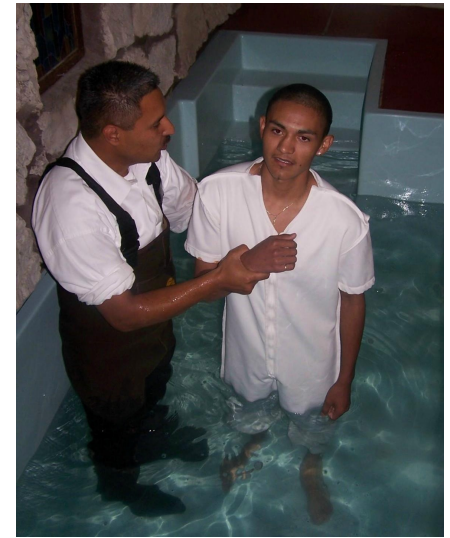
- I. Instruct the candidate concerning exactly what you are going to do.
  - A. Ask them about their Salvation.
  - B. Make sure they are far enough forward so that when they are baptized backward their head will not strike the end of the baptistry.
- II. Some prefatory remarks after you are in the water.
  - A. Make some brief remarks on the purpose of Baptism as an act of obedience, not an act of, nor an aid to, Salvation.
  - B. Briefly ask candidate if they are saved.

Suggested remarks:

1. **“Do you believe that Christ died to save sinners?”**
2. **“Have you accepted Him as your personal Saviour?”**
3. Wait for their affirmation of their Salvation through Christ.

You had already made sure of their Salvation in preparation for their baptism but wait for their public profession at this time before proceeding with their baptism.

- III. Have them place one hand over their mouth and nose.
- IV. Have them take their other hand and grasp the wrist of the hand that is covering their mouth and nose and have them keep both hands in those positions while being baptized.
- V. Put your left hand in the middle of their back and raise your right hand.
- VI. Recite: **“Upon your profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, I now baptize you, my (brother or sister), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost– ”**
- VII. Lower your right hand from the air and grasp the juncture of where their one hand is grasping their other wrist and hold tight to their back and their wrist and dunk them backward into the water (if they are tall you may have to take a slight step to the left) until their entire body is under water while reciting: **“buried in the likeness of Christ’s death–”**
- VIII. Raise them back up out of the water while reciting: **“raised in the likeness of His resurrection.”**
- IX. Give them whatever time they need to recover and then offer a helping hand to assist them in leaving the baptistry or body of water in which you are baptizing.



### Additional Notes:

1. Sometimes the baptistry is too small and/or the water is too shallow for the person to stand up in it in order to be baptized. If that is the case, then a chair can be placed in the water for the candidate to set on. If the water is up to the bottom of the chest of the candidate, then baptism can be performed.
2. Have the candidate set on the chair and carry out the mechanics of the baptism in the normal manner. Be careful to make sure that the water is deep enough for their entire body to be completely submerged when they are dunked backwards while setting on the chair without bending the top portion of their body downward past the level of the lower portion of the body that is seated on the chair. To do so might cause a strain on their back.
3. Again, although they are seated during the baptism, you still need to make sure that the candidate's entire body is under the water when you bend them backwards to perform the baptism and make sure that their head will safely clear the end of the baptistry while being baptized.

## **The ordinance of Baptism:**

Using proper outline format, outline the ordinance of Baptism and the observance of it. (Include Scripture references. See the prerequisite course, Baptism.)

Include in the outline:

1. Who is a proper candidate for Baptism.
2. The purpose of the ordinance.
3. How water is to be used.
4. Who has the authority to administer Baptism.
5. The outline of the physical observance of the ordinance.

Submit the outline for approval. Find several volunteers to help in practice sessions following your outline after you have received approval from the school for your outline.

You are required to carry out at least 2 complete practice sessions on 2 different people using your outline.

Dr. VBK

Begin making the arrangements for the 2 practice baptisms that you must perform for this course. You will need 2 volunteers and access to a pool of water at least waist deep. You must perform 2 baptisms, using your pre-approved outline, before you can finish this course.

NOTE: If you have a physical impairment that will prevent you from performing the physical baptisms, please contact the college and other arrangements will be made concerning this requirement. - Dr. VBK

END LESSON 17