

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

RS-016

LESSON SIXTEEN

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

Teaching code - in “teacher notes”.

1. Underlining - designed to get class participation.
2. Bold items - messages to instructor.
3. All other copy - information designed to go directly to class.

Place Lesson #17, No Exhibits, at each student location before session begins.

Warm Welcome and Opening Prayer

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

WARM WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER.

Let us turn to question #1.

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

[illegible]

Decision Questions

Place an "X" on your envelope in answer to the following question:

1. I understand that baptism by IMMERSION is the only method of baptism mentioned in the Bible. Place an "X".
2. Place another "X" if you are ready to say I want to be baptized the Bible way in response to the command of Jesus (sometime in the future we will be having a baptism, and there are always many who decide to be baptized).
3. Place your third "X" if you love Jesus, and have been baptized, but somehow from all that you are learning, you want to be rebaptized into the greater joy of the Lord.

Refer to Acts 19:1-5.

**Believers in Ephesus were rebaptized –
after they learned new truth!**

Again friends:

If you are ready to decide to enter into this experience,
place your third "X".

IN ALL OF THESE DIRECTIONS – ISN'T IT SATISFYING TO BE
FOLLOWING JESUS – IT BRINGS A BEAUTIFUL PEACE INTO LIFE.

Talk up next lesson.

Closing Prayer

REVELATION SEMINARS



Years ago a poet said,

"I wish that there were some wonderful place,
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all my mistakes and all my heartaches,
And all my poor selfish grief,
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never put on again."

All of us have at times desperately wished for an opportunity to start all over again with a new, clean record. The book of Revelation repeatedly refers to the privilege of beginning anew.

For example, Revelation 1:5 (1800), tells us that Jesus washes evil from our lives so we can start over. Revelation 3:8 (1803) sets before us an open door to a new life. Revelation 10:8-11 (1811) explains that after bitter disappointment we must begin afresh, and Revelation 21:5 (1823) promises that Jesus will make everything new.

Did you know that Jesus has lovingly provided for us a public ceremony in which the past is officially buried and a marvelous new life begins? Nothing in all the world compares with this great event for joy, satisfaction, peace and relief. It is priceless.

Jesus says that this momentous and meaningful experience is absolutely imperative for any who would enter His new kingdom. This magnificent event is called baptism. Let's see what Jesus says about this vital matter.

1. In Jesus' last visit with His disciples
He carefully gave instructions
as to their responsibilities.

WHAT DID HE DIRECT THEM TO DO? (Matthew 28:19-20)

Read Matthew 28:19 together.

2. Question ONE points to the responsibility
of Jesus' disciples.

Question TWO focuses on what Jesus desired
for one who would be a disciple.

Let's look at this question.

3. **Ask class to tell of kinds of baptism they know about.**

4. WHAT did the apostle Paul say in Eph. 4:5
that shows us God's attitude toward
the various kinds of baptisms.

Mrs. Taylor rented a room to a
seminary student – discussed baptism.
She said, "40 barrels or 40 drops – same,
God is not that particular".

Do you think the apostle Paul would agree?
Think about offerings of Cain and Abel?
Was God particular then?



**"Is Jesus pleased with
your baptism?"**

QUIZ QUESTIONS

(Open Book Text)

1. Baptism is as essential to a _____ as the _____ is to a marriage.
(Answer found in Lesson 16, under note 17)
2. Jesus said unless we are baptized by water (our choice) and the Spirit (His choice) we _____ enter into His Kingdom.
(Answer found in John 3:5)
3. Before a person is baptized, the following must take place:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

(1) Christian, Wedding

(2) Cannot

(3) (a) Must be taught and accept Jesus' teachings.

(b) Believe teachings from his heart.

(c) Must repent.

(FILL IN ABOVE THREE BLANKS BY LOCATING ANSWERS IN QUESTION #14 OF LESSON 16)

OFFERING APPEAL

With or without transparencies, tell class the amount of offerings thus far and invite liberal offerings for this Seminar and to help conduct others. Thank class for their generosity.



Jesus calls all nations to Him.

JESUS COMMANDED BAPTISM

1. What is the Gospel Commission? Matthew 28:19 (1451)

Ans: "Go . . . and TEACH all nations, BAPTIZING them.

2. How important is baptism? Mark 16:16 (1486)

Ans: "He that BELIEVETH and is BAPTIZED shall be SAVED; but he that BELIEVETH NOT shall be DAMNED".

3. What are some forms of baptism used today?

Ans: a. Immersion (entire body submerged backwards in water).

Ans: b. Trine immersion (entire body submerged face forward three times).

Ans: c. Aspersation (being sprinkled with water).

Ans: d. Infusion (having water poured on you).

Ans: e. Having rose petals or salt sprinkled on you.

Ans: f. Being anointed with oil.

Ans: g. Having wine poured on you.

Ans: h. Dry cleaning method (no water).

Ans: i. Words spoken over the phone or sent by mail.

Ans: j. The Holy Spirit in the life.

Ans: k. Symbolic or figurative.

4. At least fifteen ceremonies are called baptism today. Most people believe that any style or type of baptism is acceptable as long as a person is sincere. What does the Bible say about this? Ephesians 4:5 (1717)

Ans: "One LORD, one FAITH, one BAPTISM".

6. AFTER QUESTION #6

Am I really willing to follow Jesus' example?
I think this is a very important question.

7. LET'S READ MARK 1:9-15 TOGETHER.

Answers both 7 & 8.

8. IF JESUS NEVER SINNED, WHY DID HE INSIST ON BEING BAPTIZED?

Answer — To give us an example.

10. Have you ever found any evidence in the New Testament to indicate the disciples changed the mode of baptism?

NOTE: Salvation centers in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, I Corinthians 15:3,4 (1686). Baptism by immersion incorporates all three. There is a **DEATH** to sin. Next a **BURIAL** beneath the water. Then a **RESURRECTION** from the water to an entirely new life. No other form of baptism fits this symbolism. Thank God there is a grave between the Christian and his old life. Baptism is as important to my life as Jesus' death, burial and resurrection are to salvation, John 3:5 (1550).

20. The Bible is clear that those who are to be saved must become members of God's church, Acts 2:47 (1594). What public ceremony makes entrance into the church official? I Corinthians 12:13 (1683)

Ans: "For by one SPIRIT we are all BAPTIZED into one BODY".

NOTE: Baptism is the official act which makes one a member of Christ's body. His body is His church, Colossians 1:18 (1729). Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance into His true church.

21. Is rebaptism ever proper? Acts 19:2-5 (1626)

Ans: YES

NOTE: Rebaptism is proper when major, new light is received.

BAPTISM PLEASES JESUS

22. Once a person has met Jesus' conditions for baptism, how soon should he be baptized? Acts 22:16 (1634)

Ans: AT ONCE

23. When I refuse baptism, whose counsel am I rejecting? Luke 7:30 (1504)

Ans: I am rejecting the "counsel of GOD".

24. When Jesus was baptized, what did the Father in heaven say? Mark 1:11 (1452)

Ans: "Thou art my BELOVED SON, in whom I am WELL PLEASED".

25. When people follow Jesus in baptism by immersion today, He still says, "I am pleased with you." Wouldn't you like to prepare for this sacred ceremony so Jesus can be pleased with your baptism?

Ans: _____

19. AFTER NOTE #19

If we truly love a person,
we will seek to honor them
in the way that is most meaningful to them,
rather than according to our own personal preferences.

Let us listen to Jesus
and honor His death, burial and resurrection
according to HIS DESIRES.

20. To know I belong to Jesus,
and that Jesus belongs to me,
is so deeply satisfying.
This experience I long for
everyone to have today.

23. It is rather startling to see what God thinks
about the refusal of the rite of entry
into his family, isn't it?

CLASS APPEAL

God speaks to each of us
with REJOICING or with SORROW
as we FULFILL his will or REFUSE.

Today, as you have heard God speak to your heart,
I invite you to join your Christian friends
and become members of God's family,
and hear Him say,
"Thou art my beloved son or daughter
in whom I am well pleased."

I invite you to be baptized
and become a member of God's family.

APPEAL PRAYER

LET'S PRAY.

NOTE: God recognizes only one true form of baptism. All other forms are not really baptism at all.

5. What does the word baptize mean?

Ans: TO DIP, SUBMERGE OR IMMERSE

NOTE: Baptize comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means "to dip, submerge or immerse".

JESUS' PERFECT EXAMPLE

6. Who is my example in everything, including baptism? 1 Peter 2:21 (1782)

Ans: JESUS

7. What form of baptism did John use when he baptized Jesus? Mark 1:9-11 (1452)

Ans: IMMERSION

NOTE: Please note that John baptized Jesus "in" the Jordan river, not on its banks. Notice, also, that Jesus came "up out of the water", which indicates He had been down into the water. Virtually all churches agree that Jesus was baptized by immersion.

8. When John at first refused to baptize Jesus, what did Jesus tell him? Matthew 3:13-15 (1400)

Ans: "Suffer it to be so now; for thus it BECOMETH
us to FULFILL all RIGHTEOUSNESS."

NOTE: Jesus did not need baptism, but He explained to John that all of US do. So, to set us a perfect example for righteous living it was necessary that He be baptized. His baptism also serves for all who, like the thief on the cross, cannot be baptized.

9. Why did John baptize in Aenon? John 3:23 (1550)

Ans: " BECAUSE there was much WATER there".

NOTE: Immersion demands deep water. For sprinkling (aspersion) or pouring (infusion) a 50 gallon drum would baptize a small army.

10. Some say that the disciples changed the method of baptism. What did Paul say about even angels who try to teach something different from what Jesus taught? Galatians 1:11,12,8,9 (1706)

Ans: "Let him be ACCURSED."

11. The only form of baptism we see
in scripture is submersion under water.

Sprinkling is not Bible baptism.

Sprinkling = anointing – not baptizing

Such a service is mentioned in the Bible,
but oil, not water is used.
(James 5:14-16)

12. AFTER QUESTION #12

Notice the importance of water baptism:

Jesus said it was essential.
Crucifixion mentioned 28 times.
Baptism mentioned over 100 times.

Jesus knows human needs.
He knows we need points of beginning again.
Times, experiences we can look back on.
That was the day/hour
when I began again!

Why wedding? Same reason.

13. AFTER QUESTION #13

Sprinkling crept into church
beginning in 11th & 12th centuries.

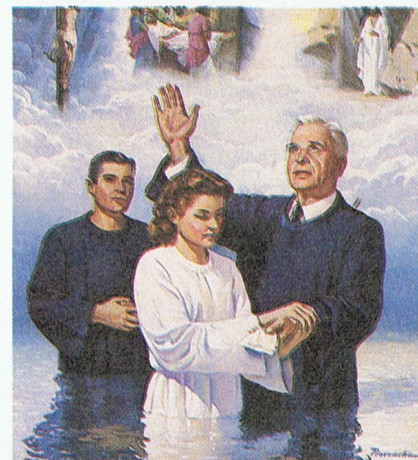
Another example of man substituting
his ideas for God's – teaching for doctrines –
commandments of men.

NOTE: The **ARK** in the water symbolized safety in Noah's day and a **PERSON** in the waters of baptism symbolizes the same today. In both cases, the heart must be right first. But a person whose heart is right and understands Bible baptism will be baptized even as Noah and his family not only believed but entered into the ark of safety.

17. With whom is a person united at baptism? Galatians 3:27 (1709)

Ans: As many of you as have been BAPTIZED
... have put on CHRIST.

NOTE: Baptism is as essential to a Christian as the wedding is to a marriage. Both ceremonies must be based on deep-seated love and full understanding, if they are to be meaningful. To refuse baptism is to refuse to be united with Christ.



“Baptize”
means “submerge”
UNDER water.

18. Baptism is a public declaration of our relationship TO JESUS. What is the experience of the person who is “IN CHRIST”? II Cor. 5:17 (1696)

Ans: He is a new CREATURE.

19. Some people worship on Sunday in honor of the resurrection. What did Jesus ask us to do in honor of His death, burial and resurrection? Romans 6:4-6 (1654).

Ans: BE BAPTIZED

16. Follow lesson comments.

17. Read note #17 together.

18. Follow lesson comments.

NOTE: Paul made it too clear to misunderstand: the curse of heaven would rest upon man or angel who attempted to change any teaching of Jesus.

11. Philip, an evangelist who preached after the ascension of Jesus, baptized the treasurer of Ethiopia. What method of baptism did he use? Acts 8:27-39 (1605) especially verses 38, 39.

Ans: IMMERSION

NOTE: Philip baptized the treasurer the same way Jesus was baptized.

BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT

12. According to Jesus, how important is baptism? John 3:5 (1550)

Ans: " EXCEPT a man be BORN of WATER and of the SPIRIT, he CANNOT ENTER into the KINGDOM of GOD."

NOTE: Jesus said water baptism is essential for salvation. Jesus' cross, which all realize is of inestimable importance, is mentioned 28 times in the New Testament. On the other hand, baptism is mentioned over 100 times. Let none treat it as a non-essential. At conversion, the change in a person is so radical and the turning point so crucial in a life that Jesus said the event must be officialized by the great ceremony of baptism. To demonstrate its importance, He Himself, was baptized. Then He included baptism as part of His great commission to His church, Matthew 28:18-20 (1451).

13. Since Jesus instituted only immersion, where did these other forms of baptism come from? Matthew 15:9 (1422)

Ans: "In vain they do worship me, TEACHING for DOCTRINES the COMMANDMENTS of MAN."

NOTE: Misguided men have introduced these other forms of baptism with no approval whatever from heaven. History is clear, that for centuries after the cross, baptism by immersion was the ordinary mode of baptism. Many of the ancient churches of Europe still have great baptistries for immersion though they are no longer used. The leaning tower of Pisa is the bell tower for a great church which still has a baptistry fourteen feet in diameter and four feet deep. Other forms of baptism were added because they are more convenient. Thus a God-given, sacred ceremony has been shoved aside by human hands.

15. AFTER QUESTION #15

Infant baptism – another private interpretation that came in during medieval times.

LET'S READ NOTE TOGETHER.



Baptism and marriage symbolize entry into a new family relationship.

14. Some say that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is all that God requires. Is this true? Acts 10:44-48 (1610)

Ans: NO

According to the Bible, before baptism a person:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| a. Must be taught and must accept all of Jesus' teachings. | Matthew 28:18-20 (1451) |
| b. Must believe these teachings from his heart. | Mark 16:16 (1486) |
| c. Must repent (seven times Revelation commands repentance) Rev. 2:5,16, 21,22 (1801); 3:3,19 (1803). | Acts 2:38 (1593) |
| d. Must turn away from sin. | Romans 6:5,6 (1654) |
| | Matthew 3:7,8 (1400) |
| e. Must experience the new birth. | II Cor. 5:17(1696) |
| | John 3:3,5 (1550) |

15. In light of the preceeding, should infants be baptized?

Ans: NO

NOTE: Since infants cannot comply with the above requirements of God no minister has a right to baptize them. Sin is not counted against a child until he is old enough to understand and be accountable, John 9:41 (1566); James 4:17 (1778), at which time the youngster should prepare for baptism.

BAPTISM AND SALVATION

16. In Noah's day the people were saved by getting into the ark. What does God provide today in place of the ark? I Peter 3:20,21 (1784)

Ans: "The like FIGURE whereunto even BAPTISM doth also now SAVE us".