

openly; likewise it pleases God when you and I are baptized today.

25. Is being like Jesus very important to you?

Ans: _____

26. Is it important for you to be baptized the way Jesus was?

Ans: _____



THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

Years ago a poet said, "I wish there were some wonderful place, called the Land of Beginning Again, where all my mis takes 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 again.

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

Do 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.

JESUS COMMANDED BAPTISM

1. What Is the gospel commission? Matthew 28:19

"Go. ..and _____ all nations, _____ them."

2. Is baptism important? Mark 16:16

"He that _____ and is _____ shall be _____
but he that _____ not shall be _____"

3. What are some forms of baptism used today?

- a. Immersion (body submerged backwards in water).
- b. Triune immersion (body submerged forward 3 times).
- c. Aspersation (being sprinkled with water).
- d. Infusion (having water poured on you).

NOTE: About fifteen different ceremonies are called baptism today and people say, "what difference does it make?" We shall see that it makes a real difference to God and we should be anxious to follow His counsel.

4. Now many ways are there into God's kingdom? Ephesians 4:5

"One _____, one _____, one _____"

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

20. What ceremony brings us into God's true church?

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For by one _____ are we all _____ into one _____"

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

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

Ans: _____

NOTE: Rebaptism is proper when major new light is received into spiritual lives. Also, those who go out into a life of disobedience, and come back to the Lord and His church, should consider rebaptism. Many people today are rebaptised when they learn of the Sabbath truth and other important truths to which their lives must conform in order to please Jesus.

BAPTISM PLEASES JESUS

22. Once a person meets Jesus' conditions for baptism, how soon should he be baptized? Acts 22:16

Ans: _____

23. When I refuse baptism, who am I rejecting? Luke 7:30

Am rejecting the "counsel of _____"

24. When Jesus was baptized, what did His heavenly Father say? Mark 1:11

"Thou art my Son, in whom I am"

NOTE: When Jesus was baptized it so pleased God that He spoke

doth also now _____ us."

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 heart right without baptism is not enough any more than a heart right in Noah's day would have been enough without getting into the ark.

17. Like a marriage, whose name do we take at baptism?

Galatians 3:27

"As many of you as have been _____ into _____ .. have put on _____"

NOTE: We take Christ's name in baptism as a wife accepts her husband's. 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 take Christ's name as a wife does her husband's. Baptism is a public declaration of our relationship to Jesus.

18. What is the experience of the person who is in Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ans: _____

19. Now do we honor the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus?

Romans 6:4-6

Ans: _____

NOTE: Salvation centers on Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3,4). Baptism by immersion represents all three. There is death to sin. Next a burial of the old life of sin beneath the water. Then a resurrection from the water to an entirely new life. No other form of baptism fits this symbolism.

5. What does the word "baptize" mean?

Ans: _____

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

JESUS OUR PERFECT PATTERN

6. Who is my example in everything, including baptism?

1 Peter 2:21

Ans: _____

7. Now did John baptize Jesus? Mark 1:9-11

Ans: _____

8. What did Jesus tell John when he first refused to baptize Him?

Matthew 3:13-15

"To _____ all Righteousness."

NOTE: Jesus did not need baptism but He knew all of us do- So to give us a perfect example for righteous living, Jesus requested baptism.

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

"_____ there was much _____ there."

10. What did Paul say about those who teach contrary to scripture?

Galatians 1:11, 12, 8, 9

"Let him be _____"

NOTE: The curse of heaven rests upon men and angels who attempt to change any teachings of Jesus.

11. How did Philip baptize the Ethiopian treasurer. Acts 8:27-39

By _____

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

“_____ a man be _____ of _____ and of the _____ he cannot enter into the _____ of _____.”

NOTE: Jesus said Christian baptism is an important part of our response to the Gospel invitation. Jesus cross, which is supremely important, is mentioned 28 times in the New Testament. On the other hand, baptism is mentioned over 100 times.

13. Where did other forms of baptism come from? Matthew 15:9

Jesus said, “In vain they do worship me, _____ for _____ the _____ of _____”



NOTE: Misguided men have introduced these other forms of baptism with no approval from heaven. History is clear that for centuries after the cross, baptism by immersion was the only form of baptism. Other forms of baptism were added because they were more convenient. Thus a God-given, sacred ceremony has been shoved aside by human hands.

14. Some say baptism by the Holy Spirit is all we need Is this true? Acts 10:44-48

Ans: _____

According to the Bible, before baptism a person:

- a. Must be taught and must accept all of Jesus' teachings. Matthew 28:18-20
- b. Must believe these teachings with all his heart. Mark 16:16
- c. Must repent of his sins. Acts 2:38; Rev. 25, 6, 16, 21, 22
- d. Must turn away from sin. Romans 6:5, 6; Matthew 3:7, 8
- e. Must experience the new birth. 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:5

15. In light of Question 14, should infants be baptized?

Ans: _____

NOTE: Since infants cannot comply with God's requirements, 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; James 4:17), at which time the youngster should prepare for baptism.

BAPTISM AND `SALVATION

16. In Noah's day people were saved by getting inside the ark. What does God provide for man today? 1 Peter 3:20, 21

"The like _____ whereunto even _____