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Power of Water Baptism into Christ Jesus

Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Today let us consider these questions about water baptism - Why? When? What? and if time permits to clean up or dispose of some myths, traditions and false teaching about water baptism.

PART 1:

So let us begin by asking **WHY be baptized** in water?

First let's look to what Jesus said.

Matthew 3:15 (NIV)

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Then we find in other verses:

Acts 2:37-41 (NIV)

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "**Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.**" 41 Those who accepted his message **were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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1 **Peter 3:20-21 (NIV)** [my inserts]

20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water [the flood water] symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

In verse 20 'saved' is Greek 1295 *diasozo*, from Strong's Dictionary meaning escape, heal, save, whole et al: and from NASB Dictionary, safely through, saved.

In verse 21 'saves' is Greek 4982 *sozo* (*sode'-zo*) meaning to save (deliver), heal, preserve, save, be (make) whole:

According to the *sozo* definition we can say with certainty ***completely saves/saved***.

So according to Jesus and these scriptures, this is **WHY** we that have believed are to be baptized.

1. commanded to do so to
2. fulfill all righteousness
3. saves - (as a side note/verse)

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) [here too, **save** is Greek 4982, *sozo*]

25 Therefore he [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

4. And good conscience toward God (because we have obeyed Jesus)

The next question would be **WHEN to be baptized?**

In all the scriptures that speak of the water baptism, it was immediate. Let us read some of the passages that speak of the water baptism.

Begin with the verse 41 above that implies it was the same day they believed-they were baptized.

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 16:25, 33-34 (NIV)

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them...

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33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; **then immediately** he and all his family were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

Acts 8:36 (NIV)

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

Acts 8:39 (NIV)

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Here is one more verse

Acts 16:14-15 (NIV)

14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Then of course when Paul believed as found in his testimony in

Acts 9:18 (NIV)

18 **Immediately**, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Acts 22:16 (NIV)

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

In these five incidents we see that baptism took place almost immediately at the point of believing, the same day the message was believed. Why so? **Because the gospel message that was preached for sure had an importance on water baptism that caused all to immediately be baptized.** As already seen, it was to fulfill or complete all righteousness in their salvation and it was commanded by Jesus.

Now the next question - **WHAT HAPPENS in the water baptism?** Here the hope of this teaching is to release the POWER of God and the truth so that we as believers have a more victorious life in Jesus Christ in the NOW.

As seen in the focal verse, the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is the POWER OF GOD for salvation. And in the gospel is a righteousness that is by

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faith. AMEN.

The most complete and comprehensive passage on what happens is found in Romans, chapter 6. It is so very important to see Paul makes it clear he is ONLY TALKING to those that WERE baptized and if one had not been baptized, they are unable to claim for themselves the truths from the passage below from Romans. "don't you know those who were baptized..."!!! Let's look at those truths.

Romans 5:21 (NLT)

21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1-12 (NIV)

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! **We died to sin**; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or **don't you know** that all of us **who were baptized** into Christ Jesus **were baptized into his death**? 4 We were therefore buried with him through **baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If **we have been united with him** like this **in his death**, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For **we know that our old self was crucified** with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- 7 **because anyone who has died has been freed from sin**. 8 **Now** if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 **For we know** that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin** but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 6:11 (KJV)

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

So by faith, we must reckon this, count **yourself to be indeed dead to sin-**
AND believe it!

Now look at the many areas of truth in this one revealing passage.
FACT - this is ONLY speaking to those who WERE BAPTIZED. Therefore, this is not speaking to those that have not been baptized. This says loads - IF one has not been through the waters of baptism AFTER believing in Jesus there is still an

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issue of the body of sin alive and active in the mortal body (v12). Major fact - Again this passage applies only to those that WERE BAPTIZED.

To know - to know, really know, is a faith issue - to believe. As seen in verse 17 of our focal verse, a righteousness from God is revealed that is by faith. A righteousness by faith from first to last (or KJV 'faith to faith').

Heb 11:1 say that faith is to be certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

So by faith WE KNOW... (Only for those that WERE BAPTIZED)

1. WE KNOW by faith - we were united with Jesus - This is Jesus the person. It was the man Jesus that died and we are united with HIM - stressing it is the PERSON JESUS we are united with Him in His death.
2. We KNOW by faith- the *body of sin* has been Crucified - Put to death!
3. We KNOW by faith- since we died with Christ that we will also LIVE with Him and are saved from death through the water by His righteousness and by His resurrection.

Galatians 3:27 (NIV)

27 for all of you **who were baptized** into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Again - those who were baptized.

Here is a thought to ponder - the body is the only part of the triune man that needs to be clothed. Just a comment. Because remember

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AGAIN the verse Heb 7:25 says 'saves completely' and here in 1 Thes 5:23, the whole person is the **spirit, soul and body**.

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV)

25 Therefore he [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

CONCLUSION:

Our faith in Jesus gave us a rebirth of the spirit and the Spirit we received is the

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seal, the mark for our redemption and eternal life (Eph 1:13; 4:30) and the new creation we are, is in our spirit (2 Cor 5:17)

But water baptism is for our mortal bodies and is what is needed to complete or fulfill ALL righteousness (Matt 3:15) and it is NOT a symbol but a powerful act of God through our act of obedience by faith that results in completion. Just as the flood waters of Noah was *the symbol*, it put to death all unrighteousness and the righteous were saved, water baptism now saves (*sozo*). Notice again the order of water baptism. It is for those 'who have believed' in Jesus. WHY, because before their repentance and confession of Jesus they had no righteousness and so water baptism is of no value.

John 3:18 (NIV) ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

But because GOD HAS SAID, for those who were baptized it now puts to death the *body of sin* that we were born with through the seed of Adam (Gen 5:3) and born of water - natural birth. (John 3:5; 1 Cor 15:47-48). Now by believing we are given a new spirit secure and sealed (Eph 1:13), and righteous. Then we are saved in our mortal bodies through the water baptism (1 Pet 3:21), and all righteousness is fulfilled or complete, for the whole spirit, soul and body.

The thief on the cross that God told would be with Him in paradise today was not water baptized because he was not going to need it. For he was going to be absent from his mortal body until the day of redemption at the resurrection. The REBIRTH with a new spirit that Jesus said was necessary (John 3:5) occurred when he believed therefore it was also true when we believed.

Praise God. It is only through the BODY and BLOOD of Jesus, the God of the universe in bodily form, that we have the incredible transformation and promise of complete righteousness. This should cause you to shout and rejoice. A side comment - And this is why in the Lord's Supper, communion is so critical to understand and recognize the Body and Blood of Jesus and His righteousness not our own sin (1 Cor 11:29) (more on that at another time/teaching.)

THEREFORE 'Know this', the power of the Gospel has not been fully experienced and is incomplete for the believer IF they have NOT been water baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48) OR the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. (Matt 28:19).

Don't you know ALL of US who WERE BAPTIZED.... !!!

John 17:17 (NIV)

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

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PART 2:

Mark 7:13 (NIV)

13 Thus you **nullify the word of God** by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Matthew 15:6-7 (NIV)

6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus **you nullify the word of God** for the sake of your tradition. 7 **You hypocrites!** Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

Now consider this verse in Mark and Matthew. As we talk about the Power of God, know this, if the Word of God is nullified, made of no value, then the power of God is lost!

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us,**

Then again in our initial focal verse:

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because **it is the power of God** for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

What are some traditions and **unscriptural** teachings that **nullify the power of God**? We must not be contemptuous with God's word! Notice what Jesus said when traditions are allowed to override the Word of God Matt 15:7 "**You Hypocrites!**..."

False Teachings or Traditions:

1. Preaching and calling water baptism a symbol or emblem of another event.
2. Preaching and teaching that this is an outward evidence of the inward rebirth or what has happened to us inwardly when we believed.
3. Baptizing any way other than full immersion.
4. Teaching that John 3:5 says 'born of water' refers to water baptism.
5. Teaching that water baptism is done as a 'public' confession of our decision to follow Jesus. This is not the case and never in scripture was it 'done' for this purpose, though done in a public setting such as a gathering at the river where there was water.

1. - Water baptism is **NOT** a symbol or emblem or ritual ordinance or just an example of something we do. There is not one verse that I have found that supports this. When water baptism is referenced like this it nullifies what we have found to be a fact according to scripture and **must be believed** so to work in POWER.

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John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

For we know, by faith, the body of sin was put to death in water baptism. For we know, by faith, we are united with Jesus, the person, in His death. And so in His righteousness and His resurrection we too will by faith live with Him. Praise God -what an amazing gift. WHAT GREAT POWER THIS IS!

2. - Here is another completely wrong teaching, "Baptism is outward evidence of an inward rebirth" Shocking! Listen closely here and understand in the name of Jesus.

Note the double underscores in the Rom 6:1-12 above. See the primary thing that has happened in water baptism is 'death'. It is the only baptism in scripture that deals with death and therefore is unlike any of the other events in our salvation! The rebirth was just that - a birth of the spirit not a death. Hallelujah. Water Baptism is real and has POWER activated by faith that we believe and know the body of sin was put to death, and we were united with the person Jesus Christ in His death and the fulfillment of ALL righteousness for the body and soul. Just as with Noah, all the unrighteous died, went to their graves. Yet the righteous lived. FIRST the death must happen to complete all righteousness if we are to stay in our mortal bodies. So water baptism deals with death. NOTE - before believing, the spirit was already dead from Adam's sin.

3.- Baptism by immersion. Let us start with some definitions and understanding: The words baptize, baptism and other English forms comes from the Greek primary word, G907 - **baptidzo** and its root is G911 **bapto**. There are a total of 5 Greek words that are found in the making of the variations of baptize, Gr907 thru 911 which are baptizo, baptisma, baptismos, baptistes and bapto. This root word, bapto, means to dip or dipped or sink. So the act of baptizing is to dip, sink or to dye (to fully immerse) as found in the English dictionary.

It is interesting that this is one of the words that has not been translated but transliterated into the English language. This is done so not to lose any of the full meaning of the word and what is meant. As it goes so often, things happen and over time the truth or intent gets skewed or lost.

Therefore, clearly baptism, by the mere word means 'immersion' into the element being used. There are several verses that speak of - coming up out of the water which confirms the meaning as found in the original Greek words.

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4. - Now here is a clarification to many that use this verse and say it refers to water baptism.

John 3:5 (NIV)

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

First thought is obvious- BORN of water. As we have already seen the water baptism is not a birth. So this is not water baptism Jesus is speaking of.

Second. Verse 6 then explains born of water.

John 3:6 (NIV)

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Here in verse 6 it is again very obvious that Jesus is speaking of the water from the natural birth through woman.

Just to seat this, another verse

1 Corinthians 15:46-47 (NIV)

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven.

5. - Many will call the water baptism a 'public confession of what you have believed'. When done before the church and others, that for sure becomes an element of the event in that setting. But scripturally that was not the purpose nor the need. As shown clearly in our 2nd question WHEN to baptize, we saw that it is as soon as possible after believing in Jesus as Son of God, as our Savior. It **never** was a planned event, delayed for the convenience of the baptizer or the family. IT WAS IMMEDIATE so to fulfill and receive all righteousness that God has given.

For it is written those 'who receive', and remember in Romans 6, those who WERE BAPTIZED.

Romans 5:17 (NIV)

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

So I ask, if you have believed in the One and Only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ and have not received the COMPLETE gift of all His Righteousness, then - get up and be baptized in the name of Christ Jesus.

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If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, **Know this** - believe this, as Peter said in Acts 2:37 when asked, "What must we do?", Peter said, "Repent and be baptized." Repent of your sins and **believe in your heart** that Jesus died for you and shed his eternal blood for you for the forgiveness of your sins and believe God raised Him from the grave on the third day, you will be saved (sozo).

Romans 10:9-13 (NIV)

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish **but have eternal life**."

And so the water baptism is for those still in this mortal body that have believed so to complete ALL righteousness by putting to death, crucifying 'the body of sin'. Therefore, through obedience and by faith receive the complete 'gift of righteousness' for the whole spirit, soul and body and with sanctification until the coming of our Lord. It is the power of God in obedience through **faith** (don't you know; reckon this, those who WERE baptized) that puts the 'body of sin' to death so we can have an abundant life and reign in life (Rom 5:17, 2 Peter 1 3-4).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17:17 (NIV)

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

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