



# *Week* **TWO**



## Liquid Burial

**Mark 16:16**

*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

Baptism is an outward demonstration of an inward transformation. Once you have made a full commitment to Christ, your next step of obedience is to let the world know by making a public declaration of your faith through baptism. This will be one of the most amazing, life-defining moments in your Christian journey.

### Symbolism, not Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God, and it is received by having faith in the Lord Jesus (Romans 10:9,10). Baptism does not save you; it is the evidence that you are saved and have been set free from a life of sin.

Baptism is symbolic of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The immersion of a believer into water symbolizes a complete renewal and change in their life. As we are immersed, our old self dies and is buried, just as Jesus died and was buried. In the same way, as Jesus rose to life, we too rise from the water as a symbol of our new life in Him. The old has passed away and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### Jesus's Baptism

◆◆◆ **Matthew 3:13-17 (NLT)**

Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So, John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy"

By allowing John to baptize Him, Jesus was acknowledging that the standard of life John demanded was correct for Himself and His followers. In this way He was able to identify with sinful mankind and to be a model for others to follow. If Jesus placed a high value and priority on water baptism, we as Christians should do the same.

### *Identifying with Christ*

The sacred act of baptism is a profound picture of our spiritual union with Christ. This transformative experience is about what Christ has already done for us. When we get baptized, we are consciously and boldly declaring to the world that we have a new life; the power of sin has been broken; we are now made alive in Him (Colossians 3:13-14; Romans 4:25). Being baptized is declaring that we are no longer identifying with our old life, old ways, and old sin nature. We are proclaiming our obedience and total reliance on Him. "It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

### *Baptism Precedes Salvation*

#### **Acts 16:30-34**

*He brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

*And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.*



When Paul and Silas preached the gospel to their jailer, he and his entire household believed in Jesus and were baptized.

Similarly, when Philip the evangelist preached the gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch, after he believed on Jesus he was immediately baptized by Philip (Acts 8:35-38).

### *Are You Ready?*

If you have received Christ but have not been water baptized, are you ready to have this life-giving, life-changing experience? Maybe you were water baptized as a child, but if you would like to renew your faith and obedience to the Great Commission, why not do it now? It's Go Time!

### *Summary*

- ◆ **Symbolism, not Salvation** – Baptism does not save us; it is the evidence that we have made a decision for Christ. When Jesus died, we died, and we He rose from the dead, we rose with Him.
- ◆ **Jesus Baptism** – Our Savior placed value and importance in water baptism. He set the example for each of us to follow by being baptized Himself.
- ◆ **Identifying with Christ** – Baptism is a profound picture of our spiritual union with Christ. When we get water baptized, we are announcing to the world that we belong to Jesus and not to the world. We no longer live for ourselves but for God.
- ◆ **Baptism Precedes Salvation** – Once we accept Christ in our life, the next step is to get baptized.



### Scriptures

◆ **Matthew 3:13-17**

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◆ **Romans 6:3-5**

That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

◆ **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

◆ **Acts 8:35-38**

Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this portion of Scripture he announced to him the glad tidings (Gospel) of Jesus and about Him.

And as they continued along on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch exclaimed, See, [here is] water! What is to hinder my being baptized? And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart [if you have<sup>[e]</sup> a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then] you may.

### Scriptures

And he replied, I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him

#### ◆ **Colossians 2:13-14**

If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross.

### Talk About It

1. Do you believe being baptized is important? Have you been water baptized? If so, what did that experience mean to you? If not, are you considering baptism?
2. What does it mean to identify with Christ? How can a clear understanding of our identity in Christ shape our everyday choices and actions?
3. Describe the symbolism of water baptism and your new life in Christ. What are some of the ways you can walk this new life out daily?

### Weekly Action

Take a moment to reflect on the transformative power of the gospel and its impact in your life. If you have not been baptized, reach out to a church leader at [INFO@LINKEDUPNORTH.COM](mailto:INFO@LINKEDUPNORTH.COM) to begin your journey. If you have been baptized, locate someone who is presently considering baptism and support them by praying for them and encouraging them to take the next step.



### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
I ask for a deeper revelation of what it truly means to identify with Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection. Help me to fully embrace the spiritual reality that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Thank You that my identity is no longer tied to my old life, old habits, or the sin nature I once knew. I am made alive in Christ, and through baptism, I boldly declare to the world that I belong to You. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

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*Talk About It* - **Preschool/Elementary**

1. What do you think it means to believe in Jesus and be baptized?

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2. Why do you think it's important to believe in Jesus with your whole heart?

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*Talk About It - Middle and High School*

1. How would you explain the connection between believing, baptism, and salvation in your own words?

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2. What are some ways your faith in Jesus can show in your everyday life, especially around friends who may not believe yet?

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