

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

## LESSON 27

## BAPTISM

*“Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

*Mark 16:16*

- If we believe it is necessary to be baptised.
- If we believe and are not baptised there are consequences
- Does this sound a bit hard?

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

*Mark 1:9-11*

- John baptised Jesus in a river—not by a river
- Jesus’ Father gave his approval
- Have you ever seen such a baptism?

*“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

*1 Peter 2:21*

- Jesus lived his life on earth as an example
- We should follow in His steps
- Jesus suffered ‘for us’. What does this mean?

*“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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”*

*Matthew 28:19,20*

- Before a person is baptised there should be some teaching. This excludes infant baptism.
- The baptism includes the formula ‘in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit’.
- The aim is to make people disciples. What does the word ‘disciple’ mean to you?

*“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?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 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.”*

*Acts 8:36-39*

- It is necessary to believe before being baptised.
- This means that people are saved before they are baptised.
- The two men went down into the water
- This is not a sprinkling but an immersion
- The Greek word for baptism includes the idea of complete submersion.

*“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that*

*there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

*Acts 19:1-5*

- People sometimes seek re-baptism. Here is an illustration of rebaptism.
- At baptism the Holy Spirit is received—if the baptism is not simply on the basis of repentance.
- Why did the men choose to be re-baptised?

*“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”*

*Romans 6:3,4*

- We are buried with Jesus in baptism
- When we arise out of the water we are to walk in a new life.
- What appeals to you about ‘newness of life’?

*“...in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this 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.”*

*1 Peter 3:20,21*

- Peter likens baptism to the flood—it makes a complete cleansing.
- The cleansing is internal and makes our consciences clean.
- The means of salvation is the resurrection of Jesus.