

THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

An ordinance is an outward and visible symbolic rite commanded in the Bible to be practiced by the church which sets forth a central truth of the Christian faith. It is a memorial or reminder of some precious historical event of great significance.

An ordinance is performed not to obtain grace, but because the one observing it has already obtained that grace.

The N. T. lists but two ordinances – the Lord’s supper and baptism.

I. What Is the Biblical Mode of Baptism?

A. It Is Not . . .

1. Pouring
250 – Novatian
2. Dumping
306 – Constantine the Great
3. Sprinkling
1311 – Council of Ravenna
1644 – Church of England
4. Spraying
1998 – Charlotte, NC
2000 – New York, NY

B. It Is Immersion

“baptize” – to dip, immerse, submerge; to plunge under
Matthew 3:16
Acts 8:35-39

II. Who Should Be Baptized?

A. It Is Not For the Unbeliever

*Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Luke 23:43;
I Corinthians 1:17*

Baptism will not guarantee you a place in heaven.

What will guarantee you a place in heaven?

Acknowledge that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:10-12, 23

Romans 6:23

Believe that Jesus died for you.

Romans 5:8

*Call upon Jesus to save you and forgive you
of your sins.*

Romans 10:13

B. It Is For the Believer

1. *At Pentecost – Acts 2:41*
2. *At Samaria – Acts 8:12*
3. *At Gaza – Acts 8:37-38*
4. *At Damascus – Acts 9:18*
5. *At Philippi – Acts 16:14-15, 30-33*

III. Why Be Baptized?

A. Christ Is Our Example.

Matthew 3:13-17

B. Christ Commands Us To Be Baptized.

Matthew 28:19

*Baptism is, therefore, not a personal choice but a
divine command.*

C. It Is an Identification with Christ.
