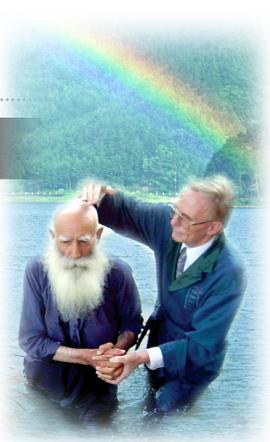


25 THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF ONE'S LIFE



What is the most important day in our life?

For some, it is the day they were born; for others, it is the day they graduate; for the wandering foreigner, it is the day he receives new citizenship and can settle down in a new country; for many, it is their wedding day.

What day does God consider the most important in our life?

It is a day that actually combines all of the above events: birth, graduation, citizenship, marriage, death, resurrection, and a happier life. It that all possible in one day?

THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

1. **What condition did Jesus tell Nicodemus, a leader of Israel, was necessary to enter the Kingdom of God? John 3:1-4.** _____

2. **What characteristics are we born with? Job 15:14-16.**

- _____
- a) We live in the lusts of our flesh (Ephesians 2:3), and our fruits are sad (Galatians 5:19-21).
 - b) Those who live according to the flesh, without being born again, cannot please God (Romans 8:7, 8).
 - c) We deserve to die (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

3. **How can we be born again? John 3:5.**

Of _____ and of the _____.

a) To be born of the spirit means:

- To accept Jesus into our life, and to change our thoughts and feelings (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).
- The word of God works in us through the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:23).
- Paul had that experience (Galatians 2:20).

b) To be born of water means baptism, a covenant with God, the public testimony of a new life (1 Peter 3:21).

4. **What example did Jesus give at the Jordan River? Matthew 3:13-17.** _____

Why was Jesus baptized? He was sinless, yet He did it for our example.

5. **What did He command His disciples to do? Matthew 28:19, 20.**

They were to _____ in the name of the _____, the _____ and the _____.

WHAT METHOD IS BIBLICAL: SPRINKLING OR IMMERSION?

6. **What does baptism symbolize and commemorate? Romans 6:3-6.**

- a) It commemorates the _____, _____ and _____ of Christ.
- b) It symbolizes the death and burial of the "old man" of sin.
- c) It represents resurrection to a "new life."
- d) It symbolizes divine cleansing from sin (Acts 22:16).

It is an outward sign of the change that has taken place within the heart of the sinner through the grace of God. Sprinkling does not represent what God said was the meaning of baptism. True baptism is done by immersion since it symbolizes a burial.

7. What does the word baptism mean? *The Greek words baptize means “immersion” not sprinkling. Archaeology proves that all the baptisteries of the first centuries were built to baptize the believer by immersion. A traveler can still see these baptisteries in the Negev region, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Rome, Pisa, and more.*

8. What evidences is there that baptism was done by immersion? Acts 8:36-39.

*After Philip presented the message to the Ethiopian and the latter asked to be baptized, both went **down into the water and then came up**. When we read about Jesus’ baptism we also read that they **came up** from the water. If baptism had been done by sprinkling, they would not have needed to go down to a river.*

WHAT SHOULD PRECEDE BAPTISM?

9. The candidate should be thoroughly instructed. What did Jesus specifically recommend be taught? Matthew 28:19-20. _____

10. What does the person who is baptized need to be saved? Mark 16:16. _____

11. What attitude should we have regarding our sins? Acts 2:38.

To repent is to have genuine sorrow for sin and to turn away from it. Before we are baptized, we need to confess our sins and abandon them. We should be ready to die to sin and live for God (Romans 6:11). Can a newborn fulfill these requirements? Certainly not!

12. Through what door do we enter His church, which is the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27. _____

Just as marriage is the fulfillment of the love declaration of a man and woman, so baptism is a love declaration of a child of God. Jesus showed His great love on Calvary. Baptism is a public expression of surrender, love, and loyalty to Jesus.

THE LORD’S SUPPER, AN ORDINANCE GIVEN BY JESUS

13. What do the wine and bread represent? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

- a) Bread represents His _____.
- b) Wine reminds us of the _____ He shed for us.
- c) This ordinance is to be celebrated in His memory, since it commemorates His death.
- d) It announces the second coming of Jesus.

14. What should be done before one takes part in the Lord’s Supper? Verse 28, 29.

15. What did Jesus command to be done on occasion of the Last Supper? John 13:4-15.

The ceremony of the washing of the _____ . It is a rite of humility.

CONCLUSION

Christ’s sacrifice will be remembered for all eternity (Matthew 26:29). The marks of His crucifixion will remain as a reminder of the price paid for our salvation (Habakkuk 3:4). To be baptized and then to periodically commemorate His death through the Lord’s Supper is the way Jesus provided to give us His grace and participation in His sacrifice (John 3:5).

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My decision: *I wish to prepare to make a covenant with God through biblical baptism.*

- Yes No
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