

# Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

## Tonight’s Lesson: “Water Baptism Before Paul” – Part 1

### Introduction

- One of the great debates today is the issue of water baptism. It is hotly contested among all religions of the world. Most religions quote Scripture to validate their views.
- So what is the answer to this dilemma? The answer is to do what 2 Timothy 2:15 commands us to do. To rightly \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of truth.
- Let’s examine the issue of water baptism before Paul and his gospel shows up in the book of Acts.

### Baptism under the Old Testament Law

1. The phrase “divers washings” in Hebrews 9:8-10 is the word translated “baptisms” in Hebrews 6:2.
2. According to the Bible, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the priests and the sacrifices were baptisms. They spoke of ceremonial \_\_\_\_\_. Exodus 29:1-4; Leviticus 1:9

### Baptism under John the Baptist

1. As the book of Matthew opens, we see John the Baptist proclaiming to Israel, *“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Matthew 3:2
2. John is announcing that the Messiah is coming and you’d better get ready! Israel was in a state of utter apostasy from God. John was calling them to \_\_\_\_\_ and turn to God.
3. John preached *“...the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”* Mark 1:4-5
  - If the Jews heard John’s message and believed it, what would their faith cause them to do? \_\_\_\_\_ their sins and allow John to \_\_\_\_\_ them in water.

4. But was water baptism really necessary at this time? Couldn't a person just believe John's message in his heart and not be baptized, and still be acceptable to enter the kingdom? Not according to Luke 7:29-30.
5. It was such an important issue for Israel that even \_\_\_\_\_ submitted to this water ceremony. Luke 3:21; John 1:31
  - The King-Priest (Christ) and all that wanted to be a part of His \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized in water to prepare for this kingdom.
6. The twelve disciples and Jesus preached the \_\_\_\_\_ basic message as John, and operated under this same commission during Christ's earthly ministry. Matthew 4:17, 10:5-7; John 4:1-2
  - They did **not** baptize people to picture their faith in the future death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The twelve disciples themselves did not \_\_\_\_\_ this future work of Christ. Luke 18:31-34

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Many Bible teachers try so hard to make John the Baptist's message to Israel and Paul's message to the body of Christ one and the same. It simply won't work. Compare John 1:33 with 1 Corinthians 1:17.
2. They are \_\_\_\_\_ the same and never will be. An honest student of Scripture can clearly see and recognize this.