

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight's Lesson:

“Common Misconceptions About the Baptism of Jesus”

Introduction

1. One of the most misunderstood subjects concerning baptism is the baptism of Jesus. Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23; John 1:29-34
2. There are a couple of very common misconceptions that we need desperately to understand because many religions will use this event from the life of Christ to derive their teachings regarding water baptism.

First misconception: Christ was baptized according to a _____ Testament ordinance.

1. _____ is baptism referred to as a New Testament ordinance.
2. Did you know it is utterly _____ for Christ to have been baptized according to a New Testament ordinance?
3. According to Hebrews 9:14-17, when does a testament go into force? **After** men are _____!
 - The New Testament could **not** go into effect until _____ Christ's death. Jesus' water baptism was three and a half years **before** His death.
4. Christ was actually _____ under the Old Testament economy and according to the Old Testament system of ordinances imposed under Moses' law. Hebrews 9:9-10
5. If a person believes the Bible, there is no way he can say that Jesus was baptized according to a New Testament ordinance.

Second misconception: Jesus was baptized as an _____ for people to follow.

1. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. What did John's baptism consist of? Mark 1:4-5 explains clearly.

- John's baptism of _____ summarized the gospel of the kingdom to Israel.
2. If people were following Christ's example in baptism, that would mean that Christ was also baptized for the remission of _____. It would make Him a _____ like everybody else.

In Conclusion:

1. If Jesus wasn't baptized to fulfill a New Testament ordinance, nor was He baptized as an example for people to follow, then why was He baptized?
2. This is a crucial and important question.
3. Next week we will examine from God's Word four reasons why Jesus was baptized.

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight's Lesson: "Why was Jesus Baptized?"

Introduction

- Why was Christ baptized by John in the River Jordan?
- What was the real purpose and meaning behind it?
- What was the significance of Christ's baptism in water?

Christ's baptism was a _____.

1. Jesus said the purpose was to fulfill all righteousness. Matthew 3:15
 - Where was the righteousness of God revealed at this time? It was revealed in the _____ of Moses.
2. Christ would be the complete fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices. Hebrews 9:11-12, 25-26, 10:11-12
3. What did the law require that Israel do to the sacrifices before they offered them? They had to _____ them in water. Leviticus 1:1-3, 9; cf. Ephesians 5:2; 2 Chronicles 4:6
 - Christ was perfectly fulfilling the requirements of the law when He submitted to baptism.

Christ's baptism was an _____.

1. Who was John baptizing? According to Mark 1:4-5, he was baptizing the people of Judea and Jerusalem.
2. Christ numbered Himself publicly with the _____ remnant of the nation of Israel. Luke 3:21
3. He was demonstrating to Israel that He was, in fact, a part of Israel Himself.
4. _____ baptism was an essential part of Israel's program at this time. Luke 7:29-30
5. Christ came and submitted Himself to baptism to _____ with that believing remnant of Israel and to separate Himself from apostate and unbelieving Israel.

Christ's baptism was a _____.

1. When Christ was baptized, it would be evident that He was Israel's Messiah.
John 1:32-33
2. Christ's baptism is one of three major events used to manifest Jesus as the Christ.
 - His _____ - Luke 2:8-20
 - His _____ - John 1:31-33
 - His _____ into Jerusalem – Luke 19:28-40

Christ's baptism was an _____.

1. Christ's baptism was His _____ entrance into ministry. Christ was the nation of Israel's prophet, priest, and king.
2. Each of these offices required an anointing before assuming office. In Exodus 40:12-13, the priests had to be _____ in water and then anointed.
3. Jesus was washed and anointed at His baptism. He was anointed with the _____ . John 1:32-34

In Conclusion:

1. What does Christ's baptism in the Jordan River have to do with a Gentile believer today who has been placed in the body of Christ by God's Holy Spirit? Absolutely _____.
2. Yet we can see, recognize, and appreciate what it **did** mean for the _____ of Israel.
3. But there is **another** baptism of Christ that we do participate in and that affects us greatly. Next week we will examine this!

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight's Lesson: "United in the Second Baptism of Jesus"

Introduction

- There were definite reasons why Christ was baptized by John in water and they all had to do with Christ's earthly ministry and relationship to _____.
- So what about us today? What about Gentiles living in this dispensation of grace? Does Christ's baptism have any effect or impact on us?
- Did you know Christ experienced a second baptism that **does** impact us greatly? Luke 12:50; Mark 10:38-39
- Christ was baptized in _____ at the beginning of His earthly ministry, but was baptized into _____ at the end of His earthly ministry.
- Every believer in the body of Christ is identified in Christ's second baptism into death. We, too, are baptized into death, Christ's death! Romans 6:3
- Let's examine this baptism into death in the Scriptures.

This baptism places you into spiritual _____ with Christ.

1. Romans 6:3-5 is very clear. The baptism Paul is speaking about results in a spiritual _____ and oneness with Jesus Christ.
2. No longer does God see me in my _____, but rather, in His _____.

This baptism is performed by God the _____.

1. There are a host of different kinds of baptisms in the Bible.
2. One of those baptisms is explained in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. This will shed great light on which baptism places us into union with Jesus Christ as Romans 6:3 teaches.
 - There is one _____ of Christ. vs. 12
 - You get into this _____ by Holy Spirit baptism. vs. 13
 - This baptism by the Holy Spirit makes you a _____ of Christ's body. vs. 14, 27

This baptism guarantees your _____ with Christ.

- The clear teaching of Romans 6 is this: If you have not been baptized into Christ's death, you cannot possibly possess His resurrection _____.

This baptism is done in response to your _____ in Christ.

1. We've learned that God the Holy Spirit is the baptizer. He baptizes us into a spiritual union with Jesus Christ.
2. What sets this glorious baptism by God's Holy Spirit in motion?
 - God's Holy Spirit enters into our hearts and brings God's life in response to one thing, our _____ and trust in the finished _____ of Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:12-13, 2:5, 8-9; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 5:1, 5;
2 Corinthians 1:21-24; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:9-10

In Conclusion:

1. There is _____ baptism that places you into the _____ body, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:4-5
2. A _____ ceremony cannot place you into Christ and unite you in His death, burial, and resurrection. Only God's Holy Spirit can do this in response to your _____ in the complete and finished work of Jesus Christ for sin.

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.

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Water Baptism Before Paul” – Part 2

Introduction

- Last week we began to examine water baptism before Paul’s commission in the book of Acts. We examined water baptism under the Old Testament law and John the Baptist.
- Let’s continue to examine the issue of water baptism before Paul.

Baptism under Christ’s commissions to the eleven

1. Christ had died, Judas had hung himself, and the eleven were cowering behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. John 20:19
2. Things could not have looked worse, but then Christ appeared to these men and demonstrated to them His bodily resurrection. After this, Christ spent _____ days with the apostles, instructing and teaching them of things pertaining to His coming _____ . Acts 1:3
 - They were to tarry at Jerusalem until Christ baptized them with the Holy Spirit, which would mean supernatural _____ . Acts 1:4-5; Luke 24:49
 - They were then to witness of the risen Christ, beginning at Jerusalem. Acts 1:8
3. Would water baptism be a vital part of their message as it was under John and under their three-year earthly ministry with Christ? Let’s examine Christ’s commissions.

Matthew 28:16-20

- They were to preach the things Christ had taught them concerning His _____ kingdom, and baptism was once again an integral part of their message.

Mark 16:15-20

- This passage is clear. _____ baptism was to continue to be an integral part of the gospel message they preached.

- If people believed the apostles' message concerning the risen Christ, they would be water baptized to prepare for the _____ of this Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom.

Baptism under Peter

1. On the day of Pentecost (a Jewish feast day), the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as promised by Christ. Acts 2:1-5
2. As instructed, they witnessed (Peter was the chief spokesman) of the resurrected Christ and warned of coming _____. Acts 2:32-36
3. When Israel wanted to know what to do, how did Peter answer them?
Acts 2:37-40
 - He told them to _____ and demonstrate their faith in the apostles' message by uniting with the apostles in water baptism.
4. This would result in three wonderful blessings:
 - Remission of _____ - vs. 38
 - The _____ of the Holy Spirit - vs. 38-39
 - Deliverance from the _____ to come on the unbelieving nation of Israel - vs. 40
5. Those that believed Peter's message were united with the little flock (the 120 – Acts 1:15) through water baptism.
6. In Acts 10, God gave to Peter a commission that seemed quite odd. Christ wanted Peter to go to a Gentile's house and tell him of the resurrected Christ.
 - To Peter's amazement, these believing Gentiles received the Holy Spirit _____ ever being baptized.
 - This was different than the kingdom program that Peter had been instructed in by Christ.
7. Why would God allow Peter to divert from the kingdom program? Why would God give the Holy Spirit to uncircumcised, unbaptized Gentiles?
8. Because God was preparing the Jewish church to receive the man who would take the gospel of God's grace to the _____, apart from Israel. This man, the apostle Paul, would become known as the "*apostle of the Gentiles.*" Romans 11:13
9. Would water baptism hold the same prominence under Paul's commission and ministry as it did Peter and the twelve? Next week we will examine God's Word and find out.

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight's Lesson: "Water Baptism After Paul" – Part 1

Introduction

- A significant event happened in Acts 9 which would truly change the course of history. God reached down and saved His chief enemy, Saul of Tarsus. We know him as the apostle _____.
- Paul logically began his ministry by working towards the conversion of Jerusalem, just as the _____ program had clearly stated. But to Paul's surprise, God had other plans. Acts 22:17-21
- Paul had a commission that would bypass Jerusalem and go straight to the _____ with the message of Jesus Christ.
- Would water baptism play the same prominent role in Paul's ministry to the Gentiles as it did in Peter's ministry to Israel? Let's compare two passages.
 - Peter's words – 1 Peter 3:20-21
 - Paul's words – 1 Corinthians 1:14-17
- Why is there such a clear difference in Paul and Peter's attitude toward water baptism?

Paul's _____ was different than the twelve apostles.

1. There are twelve apostles because there are twelve tribes of Israel. They will sit on twelve _____ judging the twelve tribes of Israel in Christ's kingdom. Matthew 19:27-28
2. Paul knew he wasn't one of the twelve. He distinguished himself apart from the twelve in 1 Corinthians 15:5, 8. Paul's office was the apostle of the _____. Romans 11:13

Paul's _____ was different than the twelve apostles.

1. The twelve were to testify to Israel of Christ's resurrection.
 - They were to evangelize _____ and the cities of Israel first before going to any other nations. Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8; Matthew 10:23

2. Paul's commission was to get out of _____ (Acts 22:18).
Paul's commission was to go straight to the Gentiles. Acts 22:21, 26:16-18

Paul's _____ was different than the twelve apostles.

1. The word "gospel" simply means "good news."
2. How did Paul receive the gospel he preached among the Gentiles? He did not receive it from any of the _____, but by direct revelation of Jesus Christ.
Galatians 1:11-12
3. Seventeen years after Paul's conversion, he traveled to Jerusalem and communicated to the twelve the _____ he preached. Galatians 2:2, 7
4. Paul's gospel was that through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, they (Jew or Gentile) could be totally _____ of their sins and have Christ's righteousness imputed unto them. Romans 10:1-13
 - This is why Paul said that he could preach his gospel without _____ baptism. 1 Corinthians 1:17
5. Paul's gospel centered around the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
1 Corinthians 1:17, 18, 23, 2:1-2, 15:3
6. You do not find this in Peter's gospel message in the early part of Acts. His _____ news was that Israel's Messiah is risen.
7. This is why you see Peter disappearing from the scene in the book of Acts. Israel's prophetic program was to be interrupted by something new - the dispensation of _____ to all people.
8. As we study Paul's ministry, we see water baptism still being practiced at times (Acts 18:8), yet it would not have the significance that it did under Israel's program.
9. Paul's focus would now be a _____-physical baptism that would unite the believer to Jesus Christ for all eternity. Colossians 2:12-13

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Water Baptism After Paul” – Part 2

Introduction

- We learned last week that Paul was not one of the twelve apostles, but received a special commission by direct revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven.
- Do we see water baptism associated at all with Paul’s distinct message and ministry? What role did it play in Paul’s ministry? Let’s do a Biblical overview of Paul’s ministry and get answers to these questions.

Paul’s baptism at salvation

1. After Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and Paul believed, Christ instructed Paul to go into Damascus and wait for instruction. Acts 9:6
2. Up to this point, only the _____ program that Peter preached had been revealed. Baptism was an essential part of this program and Ananias knew it. Acts 9:17-18
3. As a Jewish believer, Paul was baptized as any other _____ believer would have been at that time. Belief on Christ as the risen Messiah, repentance of sins, and water baptism all were simultaneous events under the kingdom program. Acts 22:16

Paul’s first missionary journey

1. Acts 13 and 14 record Paul’s first missionary journey.
2. During Paul’s first missionary journey throughout the regions of Galatia, water baptism is _____ mentioned one time.
3. Many people trusted Christ during this first missionary journey, but there is _____ record of any baptisms at all. Acts 14:21-23
4. When Paul returns to his home church in Antioch, he told them how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:27

Paul's defense at the Jerusalem Council

1. In Acts 15, some of the Jewish believers were causing a stir among the Gentile converts, insisting that they must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved.
2. It ends up turning into a showdown at Jerusalem. The conclusion was that the Gentiles did not have to do these things.
3. But one command did come out of this meeting: the Gentile believers needed to be sensitive to the Jewish believers and not knowingly _____ them.
Acts 15:19-21
4. This meeting apparently had a great impact on Paul because we see Paul doing things on his second missionary journey that he did not do on his first journey.

Paul's second missionary journey

1. Immediately we see Paul exercising a greater sensitivity to the Jews. He takes _____ and has him circumcised. Acts 16:3
2. We also see Paul shaving his head due to a Jewish _____ he had taken.
Acts 18:18-21
3. We also see Paul baptizing converts for the _____ time on this journey.
Acts 16:14-15, 30-33, 18:8
4. Paul is never seen **preaching** baptism. We do not see it mentioned in any of his messages. It clearly is not seen as part of his gospel, nor do we ever see him requiring it, but we do see it practiced or mentioned _____ times.
5. The Jerusalem Council made an impact on Paul, and he was passionate about wanting to reach his own Jewish people with the _____. Romans 10:1

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Water Baptism After Paul” – Part 3

Introduction

- Paul was not one of the _____ apostles, but received a special commission by direct revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven.
- Do we see water baptism associated at all with Paul’s distinct message and ministry? What role did it play in Paul’s ministry? Last week we began to do a Biblical overview of Paul’s ministry in order to get answers to these questions. We examined his salvation, first and second missionary journeys, as well as the Jerusalem Council in between.

Paul’s third missionary journey

1. Just like Paul’s first missionary journey, Paul is not seen practicing water baptism on this missionary journey, with but one exception.
2. In Acts 19:1-7, Paul enters Ephesus. A few things to note about this text:
 - This involves twelve _____ men that had already believed John the Baptist’s message that the Messiah was coming. vs. 2
 - These men had been _____ baptized under John’s baptism and message. vs. 3
 - Paul gives these men _____ revelation by explaining to them that Christ Jesus was the fulfillment of John’s message. vs. 4
 - These men are then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - There is no evidence that Paul performed this baptism or required it, but he _____ it.
3. There is no more mention of water baptism after this on Paul’s journey.

Paul’s Acts epistles

1. Paul wrote several of his letters to the churches during the Acts time period. These books would include Galatians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

2. Water baptism is mentioned _____ in these epistles. It is found in 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.
 - This epistle was written from Ephesus during the Acts 19 time period.
3. There was some serious _____ in this church and much of it was centered on this issue of water baptism.
 - Paul thanked God that he himself had only baptized a _____ of these people. vs. 14
 - Paul states that Christ's commission for him was _____ to baptize, but to preach the _____. vs. 17
4. In order to be true to the text, we can only conclude one thing. Water baptism was not an integral part of Paul's ministry or message. The preaching of Christ's _____ work was the focus of Paul's message. 1 Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-2

Paul's post-Acts epistles

1. Many of Paul's letters he wrote after the book of Acts was complete. This would include Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
2. Again, water baptism is never mentioned in any of these letters. Paul's focus is the "_____ baptism" of Ephesians 4:5. This is a spiritual, invisible baptism that is done by God the moment a person trusts Christ. Colossians 2:11-13
3. This divine baptism places a believer into spiritual _____ with Jesus Christ, brings spiritual life, and results in complete forgiveness of _____.

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “Answering the Tough Questions”

Introduction

- Paul is our apostle. He is the apostle of the Gentiles (Romans 11:13) and to him was revealed the great mystery of the body of Christ (Ephesians 3:9) and the wonderful blessings that accompany this position in Christ.
- We know from our previous studies the special significance that water baptism held under Israel’s program, but what role does water baptism have in the body of Christ?
- In this lesson we will answer some tough questions regarding water baptism. We will answer them in light of Paul’s teaching to the church, the body of Christ.

Is water baptism commanded?

1. One will search in vain to find Paul ever commanding _____ believers to be baptized.
2. We see _____ instructions at all in any of Paul’s 13 letters to churches and pastors concerning the issue of water baptism. There is a substantial amount of teaching regarding _____ baptism, but not water baptism.
3. Peter ministered to Israel, but Paul is our apostle (Galatians 2:7-9). You will not find Paul making water baptism an _____ doctrine and practice in his Gentile ministry.

Is water baptism the first step of obedience after a person is saved?

1. Faith, baptism, remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit were inseparably _____ under Israel’s program. Mark 1:4, 16:16; Acts 2:38
2. Christ revealed to Paul the dispensation of grace and the gospel of grace that he proclaimed. Oftentimes Paul would refer to it as “my gospel.” Galatians 1
3. Here is an obvious question: If Paul’s commission and gospel were identical to the twelve’s, how could Paul have said that Christ sent him _____ to baptize in 1 Corinthians 1:17?

- The twelve were definitely sent to baptize. Paul said that he could preach his gospel _____ it.
4. Paul _____ teaches the church, the body of Christ, that water baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation.

Is water baptism required for acceptance in a local church?

1. Nowhere is this _____ in any of Paul's 13 letters to churches and pastors, nor do we see Paul model this belief on any of his missionary journeys in Acts.
2. There is basically only one passage that people use to justify this – Acts 2:38-41.
 - In this passage, Jews couldn't be added to the 120 until they were _____ because they didn't have God's Spirit until they were baptized in water.
3. Believers today have the Holy Spirit the moment they believe on Christ.
4. There is only one requirement for acceptance in a local assembly, a testimony of _____ in Jesus Christ. You become a _____ in Christ by faith alone in Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:2
5. Paul said that the Colossian believers were complete in Christ (2:10). How did they gain this marvelous position?
 - Through the invisible circumcision of _____. 2:11
 - Through the invisible _____ of God. 2:12-13

Series: Baptism – What Does the Bible Really Teach?

Tonight’s Lesson: “What is the Meaning and Purpose of Baptism for Today?”

Water baptism is an _____ identification.

1. As we study the Scriptures, we see the issue of identification constantly associated with baptism. Here are a few examples:
 - 1 Corinthians 10:2 – When Israel was baptized unto _____, they were identifying themselves with Moses and his message of deliverance.
 - Mark 1:4-5 – When Israel was baptized by John, they were identifying themselves with John and his message of _____.
 - Luke 3:21 – When Christ was baptized, He was identifying Himself with the _____ remnant of Israel and separating Himself from unbelieving and apostate Israel.
 - Acts 2:38-41 – When Israel was baptized, they were identifying themselves with Peter’s message that Christ was the _____ Messiah and they needed to repent.
 - Acts 18:8 – When Jewish and Gentile Corinthians were baptized, they were identifying themselves with Paul’s gospel of _____ and separating from their previous belief system (whether it was Judaism or paganism).
2. The believer must understand that today it is _____ baptism that identifies the believer eternally with Christ and His body. Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 4:4-5.

Water baptism is an external _____ to others.

1. Matthew 3:6-7 – When these Jews were baptized by John, it was a testimony that they no longer aligned themselves with the religious _____ of Israel.
2. Luke 7:29-30 – The publicans were baptized as a testimony that they believed the message of John and Jesus.

3. Acts 8:36-38 – The Ethiopian man’s baptism was a testimony to _____ that he believed Philip’s message concerning Christ.
4. Acts 10:44-48 – Baptism was a testimony that Cornelius and those with him had received the Holy Spirit.
5. Acts 16:14-15 – Lydia’s baptism was a testimony that she believed _____ message.
6. Baptism is simply an external testimony of your _____ in Christ and your separation from any previous _____ system you might have held.

Baptism is a matter of personal _____.

1. Baptism was an absolute requirement under Israel’s program, but we do _____ see Paul teaching or exercising baptism as a legalistic requirement for Gentiles.
2. Paul does not _____ it, nor does he _____ it.
3. Paul makes it clear that there is only _____ baptism that can place you in the body of Christ and that is Holy Spirit baptism (Ephesians 4:4-6). But Paul never establishes a legalistic command forbidding _____ baptism.

In Conclusion:

1. If you desire water baptism, here are some questions to ask:
 - Am I doing this in an effort to please God and get Him to bless me?
_____ reason.
 - Am I doing this as a religious ritual, as a means of attaining God’s grace?
_____ reason.
 - Am I doing this to please and appease other believers?
_____ reason.
 - Am I doing this to identify myself externally with Christ (realizing I am already identified eternally with Christ) and thereby open up doors to share the gospel and my new faith with others? The _____ reason!
2. The first three motives result in nothing but a _____ religious work. The last motive results in a demonstration of God’s _____ to others.