



### *Water Baptism—Four Things Realized (Part One)*

*Acts 2:36-39*

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*Objective Sentence: Everyone should know four things relating to Water Baptism because they are the basic elements of salvation.*

*Introduction:* A drunk stumbled along a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeded to walk down into the water and stood next to the Preacher. The minister turned and noticed the old drunk and said, “Sir, are you ready to find Jesus?” The drunk looks back and says, “Yes, Preacher, I sure am.” The minister then dunked the fellow under the water and pulled him right back up. “Have you found Jesus?” the preacher asked. “No, I didn’t!” says the drunk. The preacher then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, “Now brother, have you found Jesus?” “No, I did not Preacher.” The preacher, not willing to let the old drunk, go without experiencing something from God dunks the drunk again and holds him under for at least 30 seconds. This time he brings him out of the water and asks him again, “Sir, have you found Jesus yet?” The old drunk wipes his eyes and say to the preacher, “Are you sure this is where he fell in?”

\*\*\*1<sup>st</sup> recorded baptism after the crucifixion

\*\*\*God’s power manifested itself in a sound like that of a roaring mighty windstorm , a rushing mighty wind (Acts 2:2, 6); a crowd consisting of thousands rushed to the vicinity of where the blast occurred. There they found 120 (Acts 1:14) followers of Jesus speaking supernaturally in languages that they had never learned (Acts 2:6-12), their native languages from the countries or their origin—they were speaking in unknown tongues; they were speaking about the wonderful things God has done (Acts 2:11); Some asked (Acts 2:11), “What can this mean?” Others ridiculed them saying (Acts 2:13), “They’re just drunk ....

**I. Realized what they had done** (Acts 2:36-37 *So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah! Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”* )

**A. Pastor Dan:** *There were two types of sinners in that the crowd responsible for the death of the Messiah. Those who stood with the Pharisees and spoke out against Christ; they actively participated in His death. Judas, the one who betrayed Christ and*

*led the soldiers to arrest Him actively participated in His committing the sin of commission. And those who knew that Christ was innocent yet remained silent, refusing to speak up for Christ; they were passive participants in His death. The disciples* The disciples who abandoned Jesus in the Garden when He was being arrested committed the sin of omission; because they didn't do what they knew was right for them to do.

1. **Sins of Commission** (1 Jn. 3:3-4 *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him*)
  - a. *Definition of Sin:* A sin of commission is to know something is wrong ... and to do it anyway. It is a deliberate disobedience to the known will of God; an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law.
  - b. **1 Jn. 3:9 (AMP)** No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God
  - c. *Good News:* The Hebrew and Greek words translated "sin" throughout the Bible revolve largely around two major concepts. The first is that of transgression. To transgress means "to step across" or "to go beyond a set boundary or limit." This concept can be compared to an athletic playing field with lines delineating the boundaries within which the game is played. When a player crosses over those boundary lines, he has committed a "transgression" and gone out of bounds. Most of the other words translated "sin" in the Bible involve a second concept, "to miss the mark." Again, to use a sports analogy, if a player aims for the goal and misses, how many points does he get? None. He missed the goal, missed the mark at which he was aiming. This concept also encompasses the idea of failing to measure up to a standard. For example, most academic courses and tests are graded or judged according to a minimum standard. If we don't meet that standard, we fail that test or course. A minimum level of performance is expected, and anything less than that standard is failure. By not meeting that standard, we "miss the mark" and don't pass. We can miss the mark by either missing the goal at which we were aiming or by falling short of that goal. In either situation we fail to reach the mark set for us
  - d. **Gal. 5:19-21** When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
  - e. **1 Jn. 1:5-2:3; 1 Jn. 2:15; Matt. 6:33;**
2. **Sins of Omission** (Ja. 4:17 *Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*)

- a. *Got Questions.Org:* A sin of omission is a sin that is the result of *not doing something God's Word teaches that we should do.* It is generally used in contrast with the corresponding phrase "the sins of commission" or sins a person actively commits. *Dracano Sapien:* He who has the ability to act on an injustice, but who stands idly by, is just as guilty as he who holds the knife.
- b. *Ja. 2:17, 26* *faith without works*
- c. *Got Questions.org:* It is just as sinful to avoid doing good, just as much as it to pursue what is evil. *Luke 10:30-37* *The Good Samaritan*—after a man had been beaten and left in need of help, the first two men to pass by—a priest and a Levite, both of whom knew better—failed to act. The third man, a Samaritan, stopped to show compassion to the man in need. Jesus used this example to teach that we are to help those in need.
- d. *Matt. 7:21* Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness
- e. *Gal. 6:9* Let us not become weary in well doing for at the right time we shall reap if you do not faith. Those who sow to the flesh shall of flesh reap corruption but they who sow to Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
- f. *Matt. 25:31-46* But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. Lord, when did we ever see you hungry ... thirsty ... stranger ... naked ... sick ... prison ... when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me! To those on left he said just the opposite. I was hungry ... thirsty ... stranger .... naked ... sick .... When did we see you ... ? When you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sister, you were refusing to help me ... Go away into eternal punishment.
- g. *Matt. 19:16-22* Rich Young Ruler
- h. *1 Jn. 3:16-19* This we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed

## II. **Realized what they should do** (*Acts 2:38* *Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God,...."*)

- A. **Definition of Repentance:** *There are three Greek words used in the New Testament to denote repentance. (1.) The verb metamelomai is used of a change of mind, such as to*

***produce regret or even remorse on account of sin, but not necessarily a change of heart. This word is used with reference to the repentance of Judas who brought back the money (Matt. 27:3). (2.) Metanoeo, meaning to change one's mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge. This verb, with (3.) the cognate noun metanoia, is used of true repentance, a change of mind and purpose and life, to which remission of sin is promised.***

1. **Change of Mind** (Ro. 12:1-2 *I plead with you brothers and sisters by the mercies of God that you present your lives to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. Do not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*)
  - a. Eph. 4:21-24 <sup>21</sup> **Since** you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> **throw** off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
  - b. 2 Cor. 7:10 For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.
  
2. **Change of Heart** (2 Cor. 5:17 *if any be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things have become new.*)
  - a. Matt. 18:2-3 Jesus called a little child unto Himself and set him in the midst of them. Truly I say to you, that unless you put away your sin and become like a little child you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - b. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer:* Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Christ, living and incarnate.”
  - c. Romans 6:1-4 <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life
  - d. *Dwight Lyman Moody; 1837-1899:* Man is born with his face turned away from God. When he truly repents, he is turned right round toward God; he leaves his old life.
  - e. *Charles Colson:* Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. It is the process by which we see God as he is: awesome, majestic, and holy.

***Closing and Invitation:*** Ravi Zacharias: I was ministering in Vietnam in 1971, and one of my interpreters was a young man named Hien Pham, an energetic young Christian. He had worked as a translator with the American forces, and was of immense help both to them and to missionaries such as myself. Hien and I traveled the length of the country and became very close friends before I returned home. We did not know if our paths would ever cross again. Seventeen years later, I received a telephone call. ‘Brother Ravi?’ the man asked. Immediately I recognized Hien’s voice, and he soon told me his story. Shortly after Vietnam fell, Hien was imprisoned on

accusations of helping the Americans. His jailers tried to indoctrinate him against democratic ideals and the Christian faith. He was restricted to communist propaganda in French or Vietnamese, and the daily deluge of Marx and Engels began to take its toll. 'Maybe,' he thought, 'I have been lied to. Maybe God does not exist. Maybe the West has deceived me.' So Hien determined that when he awakened the next day, he would not pray anymore or think of his faith. The next morning, he was assigned the dreaded chore of cleaning the prison latrines. As he cleaned out a tin can overflowing with toilet paper, his eye caught what seemed to be English printed on one piece of paper. He hurriedly grabbed it, washed it, and after his roommates had retired that night, he retrieved the paper and read the words, 'Romans, Chapter 8.' Trembling, he began to read, 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. . . for I am convinced that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Hien wept. He knew His Bible, and knew that there was not a more relevant passage for one on the verge of surrender. He cried out to God, asking forgiveness, for this was to have been the first day that he would not pray. . . . After finding the Scripture, Hien asked the commander if he could clean the latrines regularly, because he discovered that some official was using a Bible as toilet paper. Each day Hien picked up a portion of Scripture, cleaned it off, and added it to his collection of nightly reading. What his tormentors were using for refuse — the Scriptures — could not be more treasured to Hien." Eventually he was released from prison and fled to Thailand. Today he is a businessman in the United States, a radiant Christian and a living testimony to the power of God's Word and its transforming power.