

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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### PART 11: WATER BAPTISM

#### **WATER BAPTISM**

Water baptism is a divisive issue for some Christians.

The Roman Catholic Church, including the Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, and Lutheran churches practice infant baptism, where a priest sprinkles water on the head of a baby.

Baptist and Pentecostal churches baptize older children and adults through immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

United Pentecostal churches insist that a person be baptized only in the name of Jesus.

Mormons practice a baptism for the dead, as well as baptism for new members through immersion.

Jehovah's Witnesses practice baptism through immersion.

#### **WHERE DID WATER BAPTISM ORIGINATE**

There are no references to water baptism in the Old Testament. It was John the Baptist that introduced water baptism by immersion to the Jewish people. **Matthew 3:1-6**

John practiced the baptism of repentance. **Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:1-4**

Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized; John wanted Jesus to baptize him instead, but Jesus insisted on fulfilling the Scriptures. **Matthew 3:13-17**

#### **DID JESUS BAPTIZE PEOPLE?**

The apostle John wrote that the followers of Jesus were baptized by the disciples, not by Jesus. **John 3: 22; 4:1-2**

All baptisms carried out by John and the disciples of Jesus were through immersion. No infants were ever baptized and only believers in the Messiah were baptized. **Acts 8:26-39**

#### **WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT WATER BAPTISM?**

Did Jesus teach on the subject of water baptism? The only place in the New Testament where we have a written account of Jesus talking about this subject is the Great Commission. In reading the text, it is obvious that Jesus did not think water baptism was optional. It was a command to simply do it! **Matthew 28:18-20**

Jesus told the disciples that they were to baptize new converts in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.



## **WATER BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter preached his first sermon and 3,000 Jewish men repented and accepted Jesus as the Messiah. As a result, there was a mass baptism of all 3,000 men. **Acts 2:37-43**

When Saul of Tarsus had an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was not only born again but also baptized in water. **Acts 9:1-19**

## **WHAT ARE WE BAPTIZED INTO?**

The different Catholic (Roman, Greek, Russian, Lutheran) churches teach that when a person is baptized in water, he is also baptized into the church. There are even some Baptist and Pentecostal churches that hold the doctrine that a person is baptized into the local church or a denomination. The apostle Paul makes it clear that we are baptized into Christ and Him alone. **Romans 6:3-4**

We are going to be resurrected just like Jesus. **verse 5**

We are crucified with Christ and should not continue to live in sin. **verse 6**

We are freed from sin since we are dead in the flesh. **verse 7**

By being dead to sin, we will live with Christ. **verse 8**

We have been set free from the law of death. **verses 9-10**

## **WHO IS YOUR MASTER?**

Who is your master? That is the question Paul raises in the letter to the Romans. A Christian should not let sin reign in his life; instead, he is to live holy and set apart from the world of sin.

Should you sin because you are no longer under the law of death? Absolutely not!

If you yield to a sinful life, you have become a slave to sin. If we obey God's commandments, we are the slaves of Jesus.

Paul warns that the wages of sin is death. **verses 11-23**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***