

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DOCTRINE OF WATER BAPTISM

*“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Understand the significance and correct mode of water baptism.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is our Savior.
<i>Good Work</i>	Defend against misconceptions by rooting ourselves in God’s truth.

### A. The Purposes of Water Baptism

1. *To have our sins washed away (Tit 3:5)*
2. *To be reborn and receive a new status as a child of God (Gal 3:26)*
3. *To enter His kingdom and be saved (Jn 3:5)*

### B. Water Baptism According to the Bible

1. *In the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:38; cf. 19:5; 8:16)*
2. *With head bowed (Jn 19:30; cf. Rom 6:5; Ps 40:12)*
3. *With full immersion (Acts 8:38; cf. Mt 3:16; Jn 3:23; Rom 6:4)*
4. *In natural, living water such as seas, rivers, or springs (Mic 7:19)*

### C. Requirements of the Baptist and Baptizand

1. *The baptist must have been baptized and cleansed in order to perform water baptism (Ex 29:4; Acts 22:16)*
2. *The baptist must have received the Holy Spirit and be sent by the church to perform water baptism (Rom 10:15; Jn 20:21–23)*
3. *The baptizand must repent of their sins and believe that their sins will be washed away after water baptism (Acts 2:38)*

### D. How Is John the Baptist’s Baptism Different from Water Baptism Today?

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, John’s baptism was effective for the remission of sins, similar to how the Israelites offered sacrifices to atone for their sins. However, after Jesus Christ died on the cross, God’s salvation plan was completed, and we are now saved through baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood washes away our sins.

### E. Misconceptions About Water Baptism

1. *“Water baptism is only a symbol of our faith and isn’t necessary for baptism. We just need to believe to be saved!”*  
Belief is only the first step: if we truly believe in Jesus Christ, then we will also obey His words and teachings in the Bible. We may be saved by faith, but faith without deeds is dead.
2. *“Babies don’t need to be baptized because they don’t know what it means to believe or to repent for their sins.”*  
Children were always included in God’s covenant in the Old Testament, and were among the Israelites during the crossing of the Red Sea, the prefiguration of water baptism. Today, there are many instances when children are healed of their illness through the belief of their parents.

### Life Application: Defending the Truth

