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## **Baptism Truths of the Great Commission**

*“He who has believed and has been baptized  
shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).*

**DON'T ONLY  
BELIEVE THE GOSPEL,  
OBEY IT!**

*“---Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven  
with His mighty angels in flaming fire,  
delivering out retribution to those who do not  
know God and to those who do not obey  
the gospel of our Lord Jesus”*

*(II Thessalonians 1:7-8).*

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**SFA MEN'S CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

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## Baptism Truths of the Great Commission

The Gospel is the good news concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:1-4).*

The early church went out into all the world, starting at Jerusalem, telling the world this news. The book of Acts makes this clear, and in every case of conversion recorded in the book of Acts is the act of baptism.

Why? Because the great commission says: *“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).*

## OUR PRAYER:

“Oh Lord,  
help us to be

“Christ like”

in all that we say and do.

Help us walk

in the full authority of

Your Word,

with the same tender love

for Your sheep that you displayed  
in Your ministry here on earth.”

We pray in the name of

Jesus Christ

our Lord and Redeemer.

Amen.



## Baptism Truths

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”*

4. The Baptism of the great commission is the baptism of Acts 2:38 that Peter preached. *“And Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38).

### Note:

A. It is preceded by repentance: (repentance is a change. A change in ones life. A change one makes in surrendering ones will to the will of King Jesus. It is a change in heart and mind that leads to a change in action. It’s a conversion process where one crucifies self (Romans 6:6), dies to self (I Peter 2:24), and lives for Jesus. It is *“thy will be done on earth”* not yours.)

B. It is for the remission or forgiveness of sins

C. It is done in the name of Jesus Christ. Note this is important.

*“And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it”* (John 14:13-14).

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### Conclusion:

The great commission says *“believe and be baptized”* to be saved. Being baptized is obeying the Gospel. Don’t believe the Gospel only. Obey it. There’s basic baptism truth such as it is immersion in water for the remission of sins. There’s the deeper baptism truth such as it saves from the perverse and is a must for the Kingdom.

There’s historical truth about it, such as the early apostolic church believed it and did it. There’s some strange truth about it, such as it will make some angry.

You may say you don’t agree with what this preacher has written in this treatise, but the truth is, you just don’t agree with what is written in the Bible, and you need to repent.

Repent and be baptized.

### PS IV. How to do it

1. Study with the disciple and make it clear
2. Find a place – swimming pool at a motel, a hot tub, a lake, a church
3. Illustrate how to do it
4. Have prayer before and after

## Baptism Truths

1. People who have been baptized can receive deeper, meatier, new wine-type truth where the non-baptized cannot. The writer of this treatise, who has been a preacher for 33 years, has witnessed this phenomenon many times.

2. In my Bible college days, an old time preacher told the writer of this treatise of an offer made to him on the level of a Billy Graham type of fame. The offer to make him into a famed evangelist, more famous than Billy Sunday, was given to him by a wealthy international Jew merchant, but he was forbidden to teach on baptism. He declined.

C. Many professing Christians reject the baptism of the great commission

1. Once the writer of this treatise was approached by two young men who wanted to start a Christian community. They asked his advice, and when he told them the first thing one had to have in order to have a Christian community were Christians, and to know how one can become a Christian (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16), they rejected the truth and went their way.

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D. When done - the gift of the Holy Spirit is given.

Note the words in Acts 19:1-5. *“And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, and he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”.*

5. It adds you to the body of Jesus Christ. *“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one spirit” (I Corinthians 12:12-13).*

## **II. Some Historical Truths about the Baptism of the Great Commission**

A. The early church taught it:

1. Consider the following quote taken from the book “Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up” *“I still remember the first time I read Jesus’ Words to Nicodemus: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).*

*I was a young boy at the time, and I was reading that verse in a small Bible study group. The teacher asked the question, “What does it mean to be born of “water”?” I thought for a moment and quickly raised my hand. “Jesus must have been referring to water baptism,” I blurted out, feeling proud of myself for having figured this out. However, to my chagrin, the teacher explained that this was a common misconception and that ‘being born of water’ was not water baptism.*

*Through the years I was able to correct others who mistakenly thought that this passage refers to water baptism. I felt very knowledgeable to be able to explain the “correct” view. So it took the wind out of my sails when I discovered that the early Christians universally understood Jesus’ words to refer to water baptism.*

*‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3-5). [Also Titus 3:5]*

2. Matthew 16:19 teaches us Peter was given the Keys to the Kingdom and thus it was Peter who preached Acts 2:38. (Remember Jesus taught us the serpent race would work to keep people out of the Kingdom. Read Matthew 23:13.)

## **IV. Some Strange Truth About it**

A. Will make people angry. It affects many, like Naaman the Leper, who was affected by simple truth.

1. *“And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean.’ But Naaman was furious and went away and said, ‘Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper” (II Kings 5:10-11).*

B. It allows for the true church growth. Peter wrote about – *“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity Amen” (II Peter 3:18).*

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a. *“and said, “You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord” (Acts 13:10).*

b. *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them” (Romans 1:18-19).*

c. *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves” (II Peter 2:1).*

d. *“But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed” (II Peter 2:12).*

### B. It is a Kingdom Key.

1. *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered,*

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*And once again, it was the Gnostics who taught differently than church – saying that humans can't be reborn or regenerated through water baptism. Irenaeus wrote about them: “This class of men have been instigated by satan to a denial of that baptism which is regeneration to God.”*

*In today's evangelical church, water baptism is often regarded as a rather insignificant matter, at least in the process of salvation. However, baptism carried the utmost significance to the early Christians. They associated three very important matters with water baptism.*

- 1. Remission of Sins*
- 2. The new birth*
- 3. Spiritual illumination*

### B. The Catholic church changed it:

1. Consider the following quote from the late Pastor Earl Jones' newsletter.

*“So the Jewish Pierleoni family was playing both ends against the middle, so to speak. They were masters of the dialectics. The Emperors, as has been shown, were supporting the Talmudic Jews and their practice of internationalism and usury. At the same time the Pierleonis were baptized Jews who were also*

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*practicing usury and they loaned money to the Popes.*

*They became Bishops and Cardinals within the church. The first Pierloni to become a Pope was Anaclet II in 1130 A.D. What makes this Pope so important to Christianity?*

*The early Christians knew what baptism meant and the baptized by full immersion, just as John the Baptist did. The early churches were most often built like an amphitheater with the pulpit down in the center. The baptistery was built into the floor behind the pulpit. Archeologists find this configuration over and over again.*

*It was Anachlet II who modified the method used for baptism by pronouncing that sprinkling or pouring of water on the head was sufficient.*

*The significance of this change is obvious. Baptism by immersion signifies the death, burial and resurrection to a new life with all sins washed away of the person who is baptized. One becomes a part of the Body of Christ at this time (I Corinthians 12).*

C. The AnaBaptists taught it and were persecuted by Catholic and Protestants alike.

1. Consider the following quote from a 1911 Encyclopedia: *Anabaptists* “*re-baptizers,*” a name given by their enemies to

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*various sects, which on the occasion of Luther's revolt from Romanism denied the validity of infant baptism, and therefore those whom they quite logically regarded as not having received any Christian initiation at all.*

*On the 27th of December 1521 three “prophets” appeared in Wittenberg from Zwickau, Thomas Munzer, Nicolas Storch and Mark Stubner. Luther's reform was not thorough enough for them. He professed to rest all upon Scripture, yet accepted from the Babylon of Rome a baptism neither scriptural nor primitive, for fulfilling the chief conditions of admission into a visible brotherhood of saints, to wit, repentance, faith, spiritual illumination and free surrender of self to Christ.*

### III. Some deeper truths about it

A. It saves you from the perverse:

1. Consider the following Scriptures in light of Acts 2:40, understanding the word ‘generation’ means a race.

*“And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’” [The word generation, according to Thayer's Greek Lexicon, means race.]*