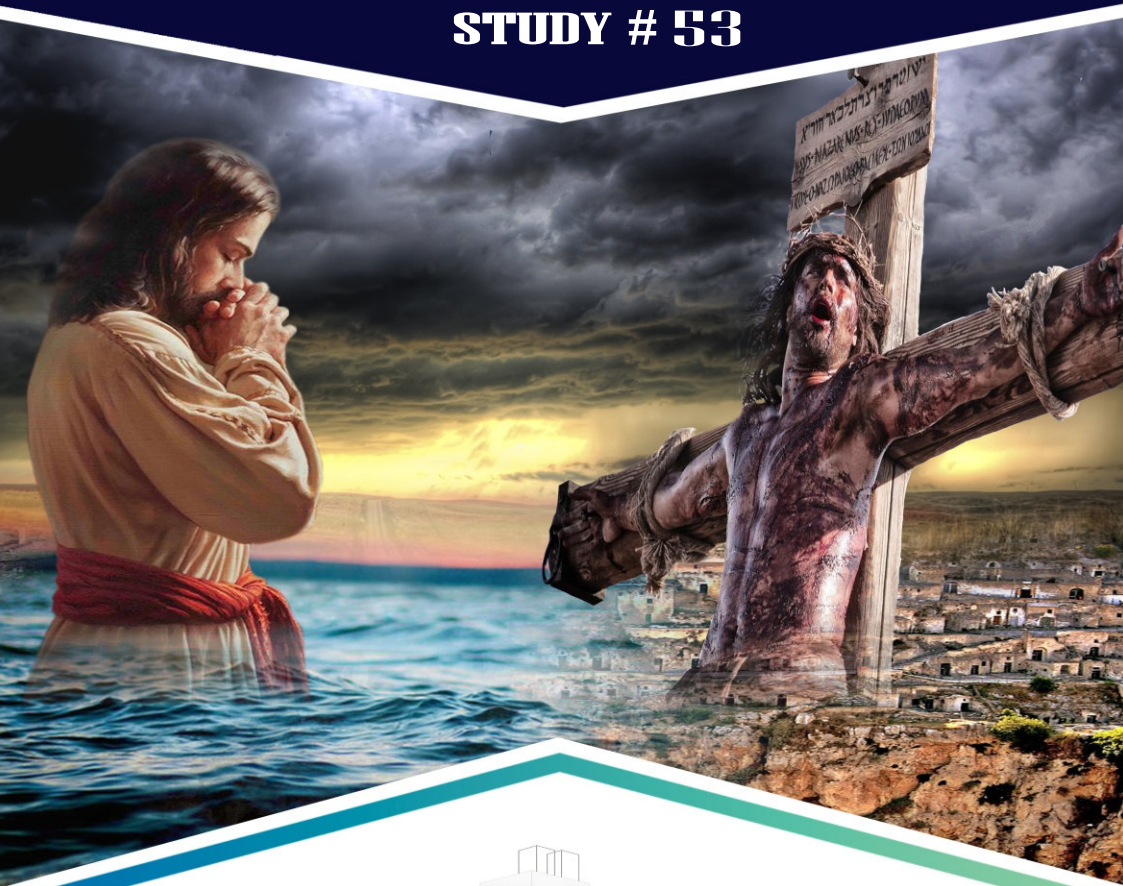


The Christian Baptism

STUDY # 53



**THE GREAT TRUTHS OF
THE BIBLE**

"Thy word is truth" ...John 17:17



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : # 53

THE CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Having come to the **CONCLUSION** of our **ONE YEAR STUDY** of **53** subjects

.....of **THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE**

we can truly realize that..... by the grace of God we have been taken out of the "darkness" (ignorance)

.....and been brought into -
"His marvelous light"
(I Peter 2:9).



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Yes ! From the scriptures we have understood **CLEARLY** and **DEEPLY**

➡**THE GREAT DIVINE PLAN OF GOD**

➡And specially the **“so great SALVATION”**

of this present **GOSPEL AGE** that is now offered by God to
.....the disciples of His Son, Jesus - **CHRISTIANS !!**

**Thus today we will take up THE FINAL SUBJECT of
.....THE CHRISTIAN BAPTISM as found.....
in the Word of God !**



**Yes ! What is it
that we read about
BAPTISM in God's
word ?**

Let us begin by
turning to -

Ephesians 4:5

“.....one Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM.....”

Ah! Yes ! In the *“one body”* of Christ there is to be only.....
“one baptism”.



WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS “one baptism” ?

We have already studied in **CLASS # 17, 18 and 19** that
THE CHURCH of Jesus Christ isthe **ONE CHURCH** of
the **“living God”** - as we find referred to in -

I Timothy 3:15

**“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave
thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living**

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God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

And this glorious church has **THREE STEPS** of development as described in -

Revelation 17:14

“.....And the Lamb shall overcome them; for He is the Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they are with him are CALLED and CHOSEN and FAITHFUL.”

The **“and”** in between the words of **“called”**, **“chosen”**, **“faithful”** suggest

.....**A PROCESS** of progression - that is **THREE STEPS** that follow each other.

**AND WE HAVE STUDIED THAT TO BE SO !!**

We saw that the **FIRST STAGE** of Christian development was -

 that of showing **FAITH** towards Jesus and becoming His **“believers”**.

Those at that stage of being **BELIEVERS** we read are to be as we find recorded very clearly in -

Matthew 22:14 - “For MANY are called but FEW are chosen....”



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Yes ! **MANY** are called to be “believers”.

But we see that from this “called” stage of being “believers” upon Jesus

 **ONLY** a “few” go forth to become “chosen” .



WHAT IS MEANT BY..... “chosen” ?

Ah ! These are those who have **UNDERSTOOD THE DEEPER PURPOSE** of being “believers” of Jesus as found recorded in -

Philippians 1:29

“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE on Him, but also to suffer for his sake.”

 Yes ! - **“...to suffer for His sake” !**

HOW YOU MAY ASK ?

It is by following in....."His footsteps"
by becoming a **FOLLOWER**
 of the Master !

**AND THAT REALLY.....
 WAS THE PURPOSE OF
 BEING "CALLED" TO BE
 A CHRISTIAN !**

We read of this very
 clearly in -

I Peter 2:21

**"....For EVEN HEREUNTO WERE
 YE CALLED, because Christ also
 suffered for us, leaving us an
 EXAMPLE that ye should
 FOLLOW HIS STEPS."**



Now the question that arises for all those who consider to
 "FOLLOW" in His steps is -

WHAT ARE THE STEPS OF JESUS ?

The answer to put it very simply is this..... -

The "footsteps" **BEGAN** at the
 "Jordan" and **ENDED** at
 "Calvary" !!



Today we will be
 concentrating on
 studying that.....
that began
 at the river
 Jordan !

Yes !the **BAPTISM**
of Jesus !



We read about this matter as recorded in the scriptures in -

Matthew 3:13

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”

Now there was something about Jesus baptism that we must notice over here !


Yes ! **JOHN THE BAPTIST** tried to dissuade Him to be baptized, as we read in -

Matthew 3:14

“But John forbade Him saying - I have need to be baptised of thee , and comest thou to me?”

Yes ! John the Baptist considered himself **COMPLETELY UNWORTHY** to undertake the task of “baptizing” Jesus.



.....And thus he expressed himself in those words to Jesus !
Then what did Jesus answer him ?

We read of the answer in -

 **Vs- 15 - “And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.....”**

These same words we read in the **NIV** Bible as -

“Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.”

 **WHAT DO THESE WORDS OF JESUS MEAN ?**

What Jesus meant was **IMPOSSIBLE** for John to then understand !

Yes ! Jesus **KNEW** that He would be.....the **HEAD** of the Church -
.....which was to be....His Body !

And, yes ! His duty was to leave the **CHURCH**
“.....an example”

....**SO THAT THEY COULD FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS** as
we read very clearly in -

I PETER 2:21

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

Yes ! This “**example**” of the Lord **BEGAN.....AT HIS BAPTISM !**

 **NOW WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS BAPTISM ?**

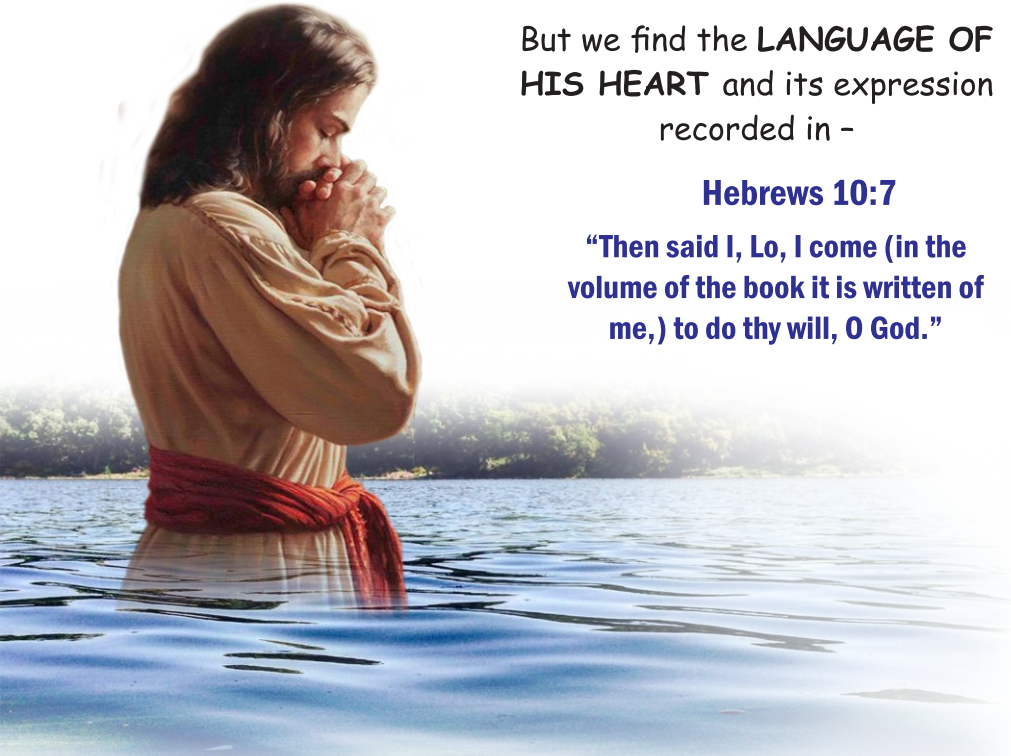
 **....AND DID HE SAY ANY WORDS WHILE HE WAS BEING BAPTIZED ?**

In the gospel record we find **NOTHING** !
Apparently Jesus did **NOT** speak a single word !

But we find the **LANGUAGE OF HIS HEART** and its expression recorded in -

Hebrews 10:7

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”



There ! These were the **WORDS.....**in Jesus **HEART** that day while



.....He was being **IMMERSED** !

Yes ! The **IMMERSION** symbolized..... **HIS IMMERSION INTO THE WILL OF GOD !**

For He had **AGREED** to **DENY** His self will.....
and to **HENCEFORTH DO THE WILL** of God.



THIS AGREEMENT to do the will of God was what Jesus **SYMBOLIZED** by being “**immersed**” in the waters of the Jordan !

Thus the word **BAPTISM** comes from the Greek word -
"baptiso"



.....which means.....**IMMERSION.**

**THIS WAS THE SYMBOL OF JESUS COVENANT
 (or AGREEMENT) WITH GOD !**

**BUT....beyond this "symbol" was to be a REAL "baptism"
 or "immersing"**



PROCESS

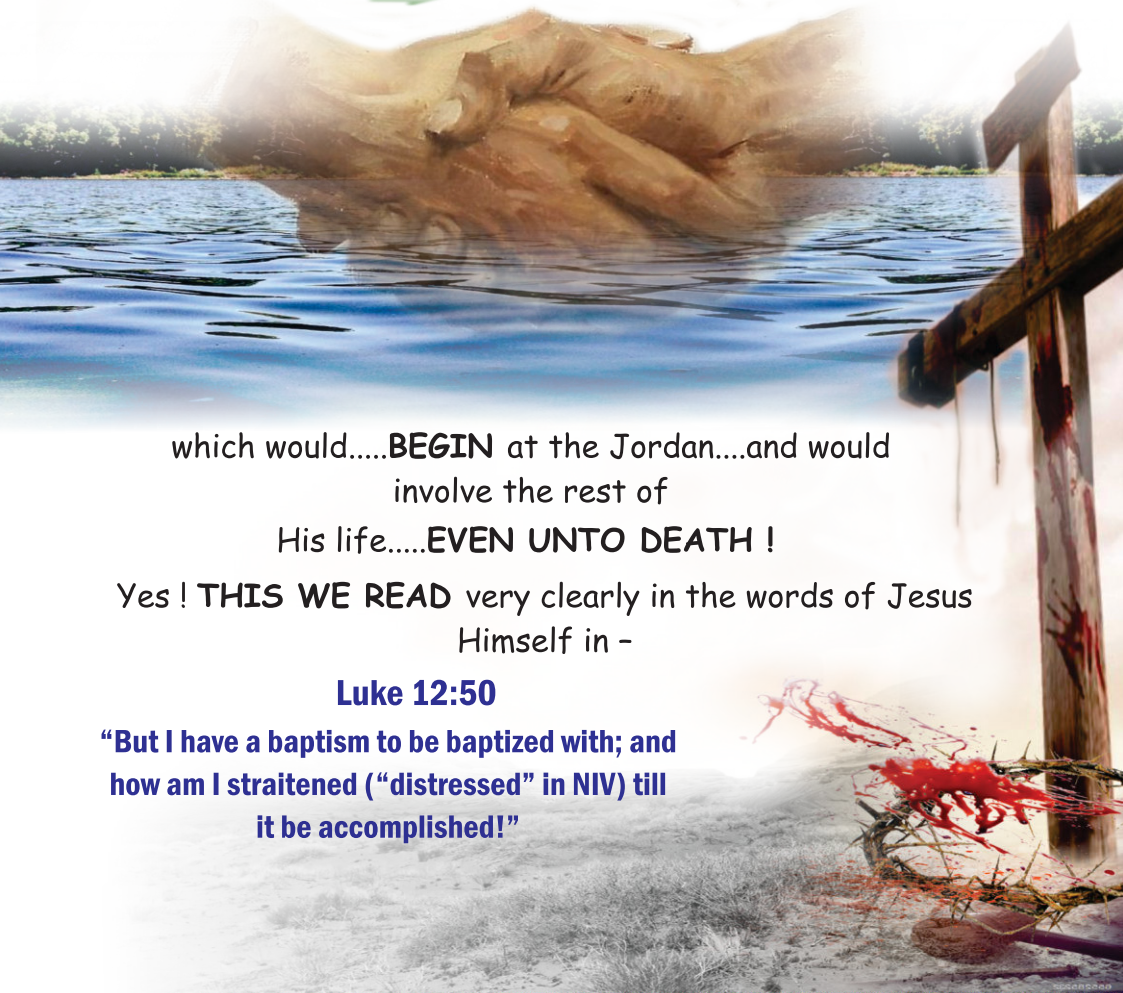
which would.....**BEGIN** at the Jordan....and would
 involve the rest of

His life.....**EVEN UNTO DEATH !**

Yes ! **THIS WE READ** very clearly in the words of Jesus
 Himself in -

Luke 12:50

**"But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and
 how am I straitened ("distressed" in NIV) till
 it be accomplished!"**



DID YOU SEE THAT ?

Yes ! Jesus words speak of a "baptism" which would
INVOLVE HIM BEING "IMMERSED" INTO
.....**COMPETELY DOING THE WILL OF GOD** unto death

**....AND THIS IS THE "BAPTISM" WHICH JESUS NOW
CALLS AND...INVITES ANY WHO WISH TO FOLLOW HIM
TO TAKE !!**

Ah, yes ! We read of this very clearly in -

Matthew 16:24

**"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let
him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."**

AH ! YES ! IT IS SO CLEAR !

What Jesus **HIMSELF** first did **ALL** His followers are now
invited to do !



This we read
very....very clearly
in -

Mark 10 : 38

"But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink

of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Yes ! The **VERY SAME MATTER !**



TO DENY THEIR SELF WILLS and

.....TO DO THE WILL OF GOD THE HEAVENLY FATHER !!

**THIS IS THE ONE "baptism" of Ephesians 4:5.
THIS IS THE "IMMERSING" OR "BAPTISO" !!
THIS IS THE "AGREEMENT" OR "COVENANT".
.....THAT "FEW" CHRISTIANS NOW HAVE
THE GREAT PRIVILEGE TO UNDERSTAND AND
RECOGNIZE !!**

Yes ! This is the "secret covenant" we read of in -

Psalms 25:14

"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear (REVERE) him; and he will shew them his covenant."

It is A SECRET !AND YES !IT IS A SECRET COVENANT !

But what kind of a "covenant" or AGREEMENT is it ?

We read that answer in -

Psalms 50:5

"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

Yes ! It is.....a "covenant by sacrifice" !

**WHAT IS....THE SACRIFICE....BEING SPOKEN OF
OVER HERE ?**

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It is the sacrifice of **SELF WILL** - the **HUMAN WILL** -

.....and instead to do the will of the Heavenly Father.

Yes! **THIS IS** the **SAME** "sacrifice" that the Apostle Paul refers to in -

Romans 12:1

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."



This is....A "REQUEST.....AN INVITATION.....NOT SOMETHING COMPULSORY.....OR, BY FORCE !!

Note the words -



"I beseech you therefore, brethren,"

Yes! The **APOSTLE PAUL** was encouraging the "brethren"who were **ONLY** believers

.....to make the **IMPORTANT VOLUNTARY DECISION**



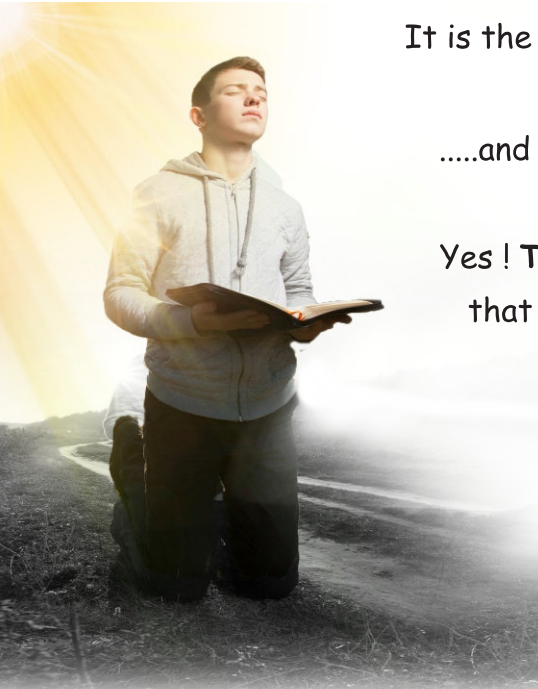
.....to take **THE NEXT STEP IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

Yes!To follow in Jesus footsteps !!



WHAT EXACTLY does the **APOSTLE** mean here by speaking of **"a living sacrifice"** ?

The answer is found **within the verse itself** where the

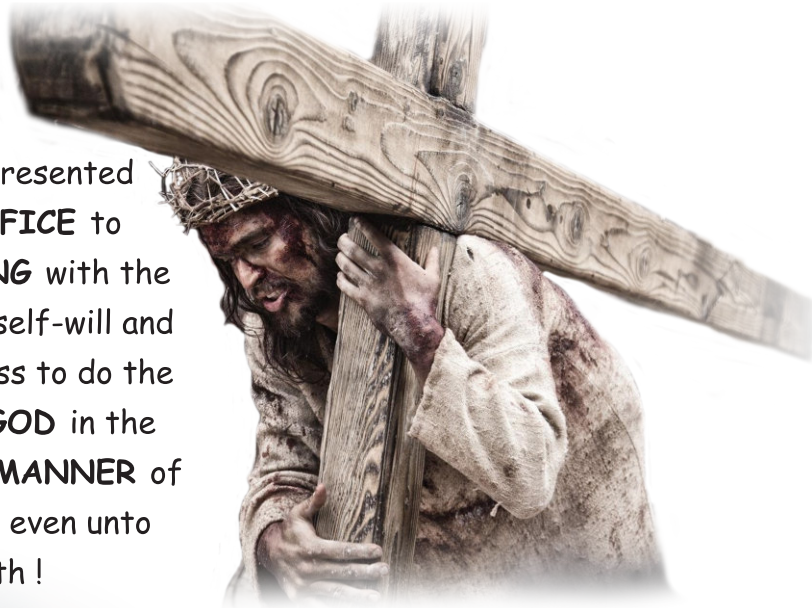


“living sacrifice” is in reference to

➡ “your bodies”.

Yes! Here the reference is to the **HUMAN LIFE** or **FLESHLY LIFE**.....with its **RIGHTS** and **PRIVILEGES** and **DREAMS** and **GOALS** !

THIS is presented in **SACRIFICE** to God.....**ALONG** with the **DENIAL** of self-will and the willingness to do the **WILL OF GOD** in the **SPIRIT** and **MANNER** of the Master even unto death !



THUS it is thenthat a Christian enters into the “death” of Jesus as we read in -

Romans 6:3

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into HIS DEATH?”

Yes! It is the **DEATH**..... **OF SELF WILL** and the **SACRIFICE** of the **HUMAN LIFE** and its interests.



This **GREAT TRUTH** is again seen very clearly in -

Colossians 3:3

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

Yes ! This **“living sacrifice”** is a reference

....to being **“DEAD”** while also being **“LIVING”** and actually alive !

**AH, YES ! THIS IS A REFERENCE TO.....A LIFE OF
CONSECRATION (OR FULL SURRENDER) TO DO THE
WILL OF THE FATHER !**

And **INDEED** Jesus **CONFIRMS**.....that **THIS** is the **ONLY**
WAY to gain the **KINGDOM BLESSINGS** as
we read now from -

Matthew 7:21

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the
kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is
in heaven.”**

YES ! IT SEEMS TO BE VERY SIMPLE AND CLEAR !!

Just **FAITH** in Jesus as a “believer”is **NOT** enough to
enter into the kingdom of heaven and gain the **“HEAVENLY
PRIZE”**, but one must go a step further.....”

Yes !**EVEN TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER !!**

Here the “Lord, Lord....” repeated **TWICE** is a reference
to the **TWO** parts of the Nominal Church -



ROMAN CATHOLIC.... and



.....PROTESTANT

Thus this verse implies that the mere exercising of
FAITH upon Jesus

....as a Roman Catholic or.... as a Protestant will **NOT** gain
the "HEAVENLY PRIZE"

....but it requires the **DOING** of the Father's will.

WHAT THEN....IS THE FATHER'S WILL ?

Ah ! We read of it very clearly written and recorded in -

Romans 8:29

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren."



Yes ! The Father now.....**LOOKS FOR AND INVITES THOSE**
.....who will **CONFORM** to the "image of His Son" - that is.....



.....**TO BECOME "COPIES" OF THE LORD JESUS !**

And that can only be possible by **FOLLOWING** in "**His footstes**"

....of self sacrifice....even unto death.

This **DECISION**....to **FOLLOW** in Jesus footsteps of **SELF SACRIFICE** is then

....**SO IMPORTANT** and is referred to as a "**COVENANT**" or

.....**AGREEMENT** made with the Heavenly Father and is beautifully **SYMBOLIZED** in "water" immersion or what in

Greek is called -

 "**baptiso**"

.....And in English is called and known as -

 **BAPTISM.**



THIS THEN VERY CLEARLY IS THE "one baptism" OF EPHESIANS 4:5.

Now we come to a **QUESTION** commonly asked by many..... -

WHAT ABOUT THE "ONE" OR "MORE' BAPTISMS

ALREADY TAKEN BEFORE THIS..... IN THE VARIOUS
CHURCHES ?



OR....DO I HAVE TO TAKE A BAPTISM AGAIN ?

THE ANSWER IS VERY SIMPLE !

Today this **BIBLICAL TRUTH** of - “**one baptism**” and..... “**one body**” and “**....one hope of your calling**” (Ephesians 4:4) is
.....**COMPLETELY LOST** and one cannot suppose that under
such conditions of ignorance that the “**...one baptism**”
can be taken !

Nor is the **KNOWLEDGE** of the “secret covenant” of the
Lord (Psalm 25:14)



.....**GENERALLY KNOWN !**

Besides let us take **A LOOK AT** baptism as found in the
churches today -

IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Among Roman Catholics “baptism” is considered as a means
of entering into..... **THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.**

It is given.... to **INFANTS** who have no knowledge of their actions and what it means or signifies.

Further the "baptism" is done by the **SPRINKLING OF WATER** and **NOT** immersion in water !

IN THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES.



Among Protestants baptism is considered **NOT JUST** as a means of entering into the membership of the various churches but.....**FURTHER** as a means of



....**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

.....and in some churches such as the Pentecostal church "baptism" signifies a



...**SURRENDER OF THE LIFE TO JESUS !**

Though in some Protestant churches the "baptism" is given to **INFANTS** (such as the "Church of South India" - **CSI** and "Church of North India" - **CNI**) through **SPRINKLING of WATER**

.....in the **MAJORITY** of Protestant churches the "baptism" is given to **ADULTS** and through "immersion in water" !



➡ But **IT MUST BE NOTED** that in **NEITHER** of these **TWO** parts of the **NOMINAL** church is

➡the **UNDERSTANDING** and

➡the **KNOWLEDGE** of the
"secret covenant"

➡ and the....**TRUTH** of the matter !

WHY IS THIS ?

Because ever since the development of the **ANTICHRIST SYSTEM** and the -
"leavening" of "the three measures of flour" (Matthew 13:33).
.....**THESE PRECIOUS TRUTHS HAVE ALL BEEN LOST !!**

....**SO IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF TAKING BAPTISM "AGAIN" BUT IT IS A MATTER.....OF TAKING THE "ONE TRUE" BAPTISM FOR..... THE FIRST TIME !!**

Now we come to **ANOTHER QUESTION** that is generally asked -
.....**WILL I BE ABLE TO TAKE THE "BAPTISM"**
.....**AND FULFILL IT AS JESUS DID ? !**

Yes ! This is a "**SEED OF DOUBT**" sown in the minds of many dear brethren and sisters.

➡ **IT IS SOWN BY SATAN HIMSELF !!**

But this doubt has been **ANSWERED** by the Lord Jesus Himself in -

Mark 10:39

“.....Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:”



DID YOU SEE THAT ?? !

Yes! This is the **ASSURANCE** of the Lord Himself to **EACH** and **EVERY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE CHURCH** who seek to **FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS !**

DO....YOU....BELIEVE IT ?

YES ! WILL YOU BELIEVE JESUSOR.....SATAN ?

FINALLY....having understood the great truth of -
THE CHRISTIAN "one baptism"



.....and the "secret covenant"



....and having also been **ASSURED** of the Lord that we **CAN** accomplish it



....."by His grace"....comes **THE LAST THOUGHT -**

**I AM A SINNER AND....LET ME
CLEANSE MYSELF OF SOME OF MY
SINFUL WORDS, HABITS AND ACTIONS
..... BEFORE I MAKE THE "COVENANT
BY SACRIFICE" !
YES ! I AM NOT WORTHY RIGHT NOW !**

Yes! **ISN'T THIS A COMMON THOUGHT** that comes to all ?



For aren't we **ALL** sinners ?

BUT LET US NOW LOOK AT WHAT THE LORD -
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, has to say on this matter, as we
turn to His words in -

Exodus 20:26

“Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy
nakedness be not discovered thereon.”

AH ! THERE'S THE LORD'S ANSWER !!



A VERY PECULIAR ANSWER INDEED !!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

In “**rightly dividing the word of truth**” we realize this to be
SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE !

Let us now understand the meanings -



This represents the **GREAT PRIVILEGE** of presenting
oneself to God for the "better sacrifices" (**Hebrews 9:23**) of
this **GOSPEL AGE**.

Ah, yes ! The great **PRIVILEGE** of **CONSECRATION** !

Then we read -



“....go up by steps”

This is spoken in reference to the “altar”.

Thus this must refer to **CONSECRATION**.



WHAT IS MEANT OVER HERE ?

This represents **AN EFFORT** of “climbing up” or
IMPROVING one's **CONDITION OF SIN**....or in other
words, **PERSONAL EFFORTS** towards righteousness.



**WILL THIS KIND OF PERSONAL EFFORT BE
SUCCESSFUL ?**

Let us **note** the Lord's words on this matter -



“that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon”

Ah, Yes ! Brethren, our **SINFUL CONDITION** is very well
known to the Lord -

...even **FROM THE MOMENT HE CALLED US TO THE TRUTH.**

We read clearly of this in -

Hebrews 4:13


**“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight:
but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we
have to do.”**


Oh, yes ! The **FALLEN** and **SINFUL CONDITION** of all
that are **“CALLED”**


...and all their weaknesses of **flesh** and **mind** is well
known to the **LORD !**

He knows **ONE'S EVERY** thought and word and deed !



AND HE ALONE
can cover those sins and
heal them through -

 ...THE JUSTIFICATION
BY FAITH which is
upon....the MERIT of Jesus
blood

 and
SANCTIFICATION
which is by....the
"word of truth"
(John 17:17).

Yes ! God **ONLY** looks at the **HEART**....that it be **TRUE** and
HONEST and **PURE** !

.....AND IT IS THIS "HEART" OR ... "WILL"
THAT GOD REALLY SEEKS FOR AT "CONSECRATION"
or "BAPTISM".

Thus finally let us **LISTEN** to the **VOICE** of Our Heavenly
Father as He speaks through **HIS WORD** unto **EACH** of **YOU**
today, as we read from -

Proverbs 23:26

"My son, give me thine heart,...."

YES ! ABOUT TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.....

when **JESUS** heard this voice His reply was as we find
recorded in -

PSALMS 40:8

“I delight to do thy will, O my God:....”

AH, YES ! THAT WAS THE REPLY OF JESUS !

**CAN YOU TOO “HEAR” THESE
WORDS..... AND
THE VOICE OF THE HEAVENLY
FATHER ?**

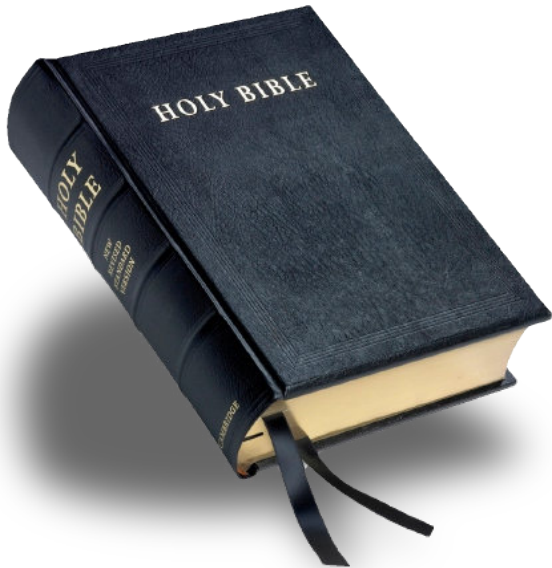
**YES ! WHAT IS YOUR REPLY.....
TODAY ??**

Ah ! Yes ! May the **LORD** strengthen
YOU with His Spirit as you

ANSWER TO HIM...TODAY !!

-Amen -





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