

**Baptisms Number 1**

**Lesson Number 11**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.

I spend a lot of time each week preparing the lessons for Saturdays in Truth Sowers. It is something I love doing because I KNOW the Word of God will bring His blessings into your life!

God’s Word will change your life! It will enlighten you! It will make you a better person, a better father or mother, a better son or daughter, a better Christian!

In this series, we are talking about the “Doctrines of Christ.” In our text in Hebrews, Paul gives us a short list. We will discuss those topics plus more.

If you ask Christians if they know what some of the basic doctrines of Christ are as listed in Hebrews chapter 6, most of them have no clue what they are.

**It is VERY IMPORTANT that we be rooted and grounded in God’s Word so that we know what the Bible teaches and what it doesn’t teach. If we are not rooted and grounded in the Word we will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.**

***Ephes. 4:14***

***That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;***

I want to start this lesson by asking you some questions.

1. What do you know about baptisms?
2. If you have heard a sermon about baptism was it about water baptism?
3. We attend a “Baptist” Church so baptism must be important to what we believe. Why is baptism important?
4. Does baptism “save” us?
5. What if I told you that baptism **“DOES”** save us?
6. How many baptisms are there for the believer?
7. Why does the author of Hebrews tell us that one of the doctrines of Christ is “the doctrine of **BAPTISMS**?

I want to encourage you to take notes and to use your Bibles as we go through this study.

As we see in Hebrews 6:2, one of the basic doctrines of Christ is the doctrine of BAPTISMS. You can also go to our website and download these notes.

**Ephes. 4:4-6**

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5One Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, 6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

If we just stopped right here, we would believe there is ONLY one baptism. Well, there is ONLY ONE Baptism that SAVES US!

Note that the word BAPTISMS is PLURAL, not singular.

What does that mean? **It means there are more than one.**

In fact, **there are three baptisms** that pertain to the believer.

There are some who believe the third baptism we discuss is no longer for today. I disagree with that and can find no scripture that says any of these baptisms are no longer for today.

**I was speaking to an elderly gentleman who was an associate pastor in this church. It was two or three years ago and he was disputing this teaching I had done on baptisms. He said, “I’ve never heard that there was more than one baptism, not even in seminary!”**

**I wanted to ask him if he felt like it was too late to get his money back!**

**There is a reason that people call many of our modern day seminaries, cemeteries!**

**I’m pretty sure Paul would have said “Baptism” instead of “Baptisms” if there was only one baptism in the Bible.**

At the time, there were a couple of men in our life group who ran to this man, every time I taught something they didn’t believe.

I eventually had a meeting with Pastor David and he told me that I can teach anything that I feel the Holy Spirit is leading me to teach. I will always appreciate and love Pastor David for that!

1. Will Baptism save you?
	1. Water baptism will NOT SAVE YOU.
	2. Baptism into the body of Christ **WILL** and **DOES** save you.

There is a pretty good chance you have been taught that you are not saved by “Water Baptism” and I totally agree with that.

1. What does water baptism do if it does not save you?
	1. It is an example or a “type and shadow” of the baptism into the body of Christ.

In our teaching we are going to establish that there are three baptisms that pertain to the believer.

They are:

Baptism into the Body of Christ

Baptism in Water

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

**Each baptism is separate and distinct.**

**Baptism is from the Greek word *baptizo* – to fully immerse.**

A very important thing to note is:

1. Each Baptism has something into which the person is being baptized. **(The Element)**
	1. Into the body of Christ.
	2. Into Water.
	3. Into the Holy Spirit.
2. Each Baptism has someone who performs the baptism. **(The Agent)**
	1. They Holy Spirit baptizes a person into the body of Christ.
		1. Another word for “body of Christ” is the “Church.”

**1 Cor. 12:13**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Galatians 3:27**
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**This baptism cannot be the baptism in water**. Is Christ water? Of course not. So when the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ, we put on Christ. This means that we take on His nature Then we should continue to learn of him and grow in his wisdom, maturing in him and learning what and who he is. As we do this we will take on the mind of Christ.

**Col. 2:12**Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

* 1. Typically, a minister, baptizes the believer into water.
		1. This baptism does NOT save.

**1 Peter 3:21 ESV**

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

* + 1. Being dunked in water is a symbol of you being immersed into the body of Christ when you are saved!

**Mark 16:16 (KJV)**
16  He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

* + 1. As Christians, **WE SHOULD** be baptized in water.
	1. Jesus baptizes the believer into the Holy Spirit.
		1. Biblically, the initial evidence of this is ALWAYS speaking in tongues! (Acts 3, 8, 10, 19). We will talk about this baptism next week.

**Luke 3:16 ESV**

John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Our key scripture in Hebrews chapters 5 & 6 show Paul telling the Hebrews that they need to get past the BASIC doctrines of Christ but Paul had a problem. The people just weren’t getting it!

Paul, also wrote to the church in Ephesus and told them that he wanted them to grow up!

**Why?**

Because spiritual children are **tossed “to and fro”** and **“carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness!”**

Paul wants us to grow up and to be ESTABLISHED in Biblical doctrine so that we can stand above all of the deceit that is out there.

The very word “Baptism” is taken from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to be fully wet or fully immersed.

The idea is to be completely dunked in water. True Christian baptism involves dunking a person completely under water. Pastor David has talked about how he has “sprinkled” people who were unable to be dunked due to health or other issues.

**What is “baptism in (into) the Body of Christ?”**

**Who is in this BODY OF CHRIST?**

The first example we have of people being saved is AFTER Jesus had died on the cross and spent three days in hell. Until he completely paid the price for our sin, no one could go to heaven. So, the first people we see being saved after Jesus is resurrected are the disciples and others.

Mary had just seen Jesus near his tomb but He told her not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to His Father. The next thing we know, He walks into the room where they are hiding. Then He let them touch him.

**John 20:19-22 (KJV)**

19  Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where **the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews**, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. 20  And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21  Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22  And when he had said this, **he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

**This is the first time any man or woman on earth had ever been born again!**

**SALVATION FOR OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS**

The Old Testament saints could NOT go to heaven when they died because Jesus had not yet paid the price for their salvation.

They went to hell (hades) but into a special compartment in hell known as “Abraham’s Bosom” which was not a place of suffering.

**Luke 16:19-31 (NLT)**

**19**Jesus said, “There was a **certain** rich man ***(this is not a parable, it is about a real rich man and a real beggar)*** who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. **20**At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. **21**As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. **22**“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham ***(Literally – Abraham’s bosom)*** . The rich man also died and was buried, **23**and his soul went to the place of the dead ***(Hades)***. There, in torment, he saw Abraham **in the far distance** with Lazarus at his side. **24**“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! ***(The Rich Man had now become the beggar)*** Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ **25**“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. **26**And besides, there is **a** **great chasm** separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ **27**“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. **28**For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’ **29**“But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ **30**“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ **31**“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Lazarus went to **“Abraham’s Bosom.”** The Greek word for bosom is **“kolpos”** which is analogous of a “bay.” A bay is a place ships can go into and be protected from the harsh oceans and seas. Abraham’s Bosom, although a compartment of hell (Grk. – **hades**) was not a place of torment!

Notice that there was a great “chasm” or gulf and the rich man could see Abraham and Lazarus a long way off. It was impossible for anyone to cross that gulf. The Bible is very clear that hell is in the earth.

In Numbers 16, we have the account of Korah and his associates. They complained about Moses and were, consequently, swallowed alive, with all their possessions to hell (Hebrews – sheol).

**Numbers 16:32-34 (KJV)**

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah, and all *their* goods. 33 They, and all that *appertained* to them, **went down alive** into the pit **(sheol)**, and **the earth closed upon them**: and they perished from among the congregation. 34 And all Israel that *were* round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up *also*.

Let’s look at another example of Abraham’s Bosom, also referred to as **“Paradise.”**



**Luke 23:32-43 (NLT)**

**32**Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him.**33**When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. **34**Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+23&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25936f)] And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. **35**The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” **36**The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. **37**They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” **38**A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.” **39**One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!” **40**But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? **41**We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” **42**Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” **43**And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

People have not been able to understand how Jesus went to hell, like the Bible tells us (**Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27**) since Jesus told one of the thieves that he would be in Paradise with him, that day!

**Some people have said there is a contradiction in the Bible here. “If the thief was with Jesus that day in Paradise, Jesus could not have gone to Hell!”**

***People have not rightly divided the Word of Truth!***

When you realize that **“Paradise” is in hell**, you are able to realize that what Jesus told this man was true. The man would not suffer because he would be in Paradise.

Later, when Jesus ASCENDED, He led those who were held captive with Him to heaven. He also gave the “Ministry (or Ascension) gifts to us.

**Ephesians 4:7-11 (KJV)**

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**;

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NLT)**

**12**The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. **13**Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. **But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit**, and we all share the same Spirit. **14**Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. **15**If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. **16**And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? **17**If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? **18**But our bodies have many parts, and **God has put each part just where he wants it**. **19**How strange a body would be if it had only one part! **20**Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. **21**The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” **22**In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. **23**And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, **24**while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. **25**This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. **27**All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

When I was called to the ministry, the Lord told me, **“Build foundations in my people’s lives so that they may be strong and stand and not fall!”**

That is what my ministry is: **Building foundations in your life and the purpose is so that you may be a strong Christian and that you may STAND and not FALL!**

Believe me when I tell you that I take all of this very seriously! This is the reason that the Lord put me on this earth!

**1 Corinthians 9:16 (KJV)**

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, **woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**

I can relate to what Paul said. He HAD to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. That was his purpose on this earth!

The evening the Lord revealed my call to the ministry, I was sitting at my kitchen table and the chair next to me was pulled out. It was almost as if Jesus Himself were sitting next to me. As He spoke to me, he led me through the scriptures, revealing His calling on my life.

I do not share this with a lot of people but it is pertinent to our teaching.

**1 Timothy 4:16 (NASB)**

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

It was important, not only for my own life that I establish myself in good, sound Biblical doctrine but it is also for all of you who God brings along my path in life!

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)**

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

The Hebrew word “yada” is translated into “knew.” God told Adam to “know” Eve and from that “knowing” children were born. It means to KNOW someone intimately!

**God KNOWS you before He forms you in your mother’s womb and He calls those who are called before they are born and he consecrates them, or sets them apart, for what they are called to do.**

In Ephesians, Paul tells us about the “five-fold” ministry gifts. Jesus gave these gifts to us when He ascended to Heaven. Some people call them the “Ascension Gifts.” Those gifts, and they are gifts to you and me, are:

1. The Apostle
2. The Prophet
3. The Evangelist
4. The Pastor
5. The Teacher

Most all Christians believe that there are Evangelists, Pastors and teachers but most don’t know about the Apostle or the Prophet.

**Have the Apostle and the Prophet been done away with?** NO WAY!

Our understanding of these offices has grown dim. There are still Apostles and Prophets. We just don’t recognize them as such. They are the foundational ministries. You will see apostles starting churches and/or ministries. Prophets speak forth the things of God. They don’t necessarily tell the future like a lot of people think.

I believe that there is an “apostolic succession” if you will. The Apostle has the highest authority in the church followed by the prophet, then the evangelist, then the pastor and then the teacher.

I also believe that the apostle can operate in any of the other ministry gifts. If we look at Paul, he went into places where the people had not heard the gospel. He did the work of an evangelist, leading people to the Lord. Then he built a local church. He operated in the gift of prophet. He also pastored and taught the people until others were raised up for those gifts then he would move on.

So the apostle can do the gift of the prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. The Prophet can do the gift of the evangelist, the pastor and the teacher. The evangelist can pastor and teach. The Pastor can pastor and teach. The teacher should teach.

My calling is that of Prophet. Now, I know many of you won’t understand that but I have written an On-Line book that explains the office of the modern day prophet.

I would encourage you to read it when you get a chance.

So, you see, it is my calling to build foundations in your lives and that is what we are doing in this series, the doctrines of Christ.