



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

IMMERSED: Belonging ~ Week 1

~ MYSTERION - GREEK ~

refers to secrets, mysteries, hidden meanings, secret rites

~ TWO FORMS OF RITUAL WASHING IN JUDAISM ~

- 1) **Tevilah** - This is a full body immersion in a **Mikveh** (a stream or lake, or sea, of flowing (living water) or a created **Mikveh** (very similar to a church baptistry with natural water flowing in and out of it rather than drawn water)
- 2) **Netilat Yadayim** - This is the washing of the hands or the washing of utensils for eating or items used in worship.

"Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside may become clean too! ~ Matthew 23:25-26

In those days John the Baptist came into the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near..." "I baptize you with water, for repentance, but the one coming after me is more powerful than I am—I am not worthy to carry His sandals! He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ~ Matthew 3:1-2, 11

Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ~ Acts 19:4

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?" So Jesus replied to him, "Let it happen now, for it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John yielded to Him. ~ Matthew 3:13-15

~ BAPTIDZO - GREEK ~

to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge, to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, to bathe, or metaphorically, it can mean to overwhelm

~ BAPTISMAL REGENERATION ~

A heretical (false) teaching that a person's sins are literally washed away by the waters of baptism

~ JOHN WESLEY ~

"Baptism is neither essential to, nor sufficient for, salvation."

In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water. And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who went into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels and authorities and powers subject to Him. ~ 1 Peter 3:20b–22 (NET)

~ WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? ~

- 1) To Follow Christ's Example.
- 2) Because Christ Commands it.

Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ~ Matthew 28:18-20 (NET)

- 3) It Demonstrates That I Am A Believer.

Crispus, the president of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized. ~ Acts 18:8 (NET)

- 4) Baptism Illustrates Christ's Death And Resurrection.

Having been buried with Him in baptism, you also have been raised with Him through your faith in the power of God who raised Him from the dead. ~ Colossians 2:12

- 5) Baptism Illustrates My New Life As A Christian.

So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

~ WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED? ~

Now as they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?" So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ~ Acts 8:36-38

~ HOW WILL I BE BAPTIZED? THE THREE MODES ~

- 1) BAPTISM BY SPRINKLING

"Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." ~ Psalm 51:7 (NASB)

"Then someone who is ceremonially clean must take a hyssop branch and dip it into the water. That person must sprinkle the water on the tent, on all the furnishings in the tent, and on anyone who was in the tent. . ." ~ Numbers 19:18 (NLT)

- 2) BAPTISM BY IMMERSION (DIPPING/DUNKING)

"... having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead." ~ Colossians 2:12 (NIV)

- 3) BAPTISM BY AFFUSION (POURING)

"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." ~ Matthew 3:11 (NASB)

"In the last days, God said, I will pour out My Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out My Spirit upon all My servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy." ~ Acts 2:17-18 (NLT)

*"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory."
~ Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)*

❖ DIVE IN! ~ Discussion Questions

1. What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
2. Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?
3. Pastor G shared that John the Baptizer was carrying out a Jewish immersion ritual called a Tevilah, where people would confess, repent, and be symbolically washed of their sins. John objected to baptizing Jesus at first because Jesus was sinless. He did not need to have any sins washed away. Jesus responded to John by saying, "Let it happen now, for it is right to fulfill all righteousness." What did Jesus mean by that? Why do you think Jesus still wanted to be baptized by John even though He had no sin?
4. Pastor Greg shared that he "Consecrates/Dedicates" infants and young children, but he does not "Baptize" them. He sees their consecration as the first step of a baptism journey that looks forward to the hope that they will one day complete their baptism journey as an older child or adult with an understanding of the commitment they are making. At that point, they can choose to be baptized. How do you feel about this perspective?
5. Were you baptized as an infant or young child, with little or no memory of it, not understanding fully what was happening? Are you interested in completing that baptism journey now as a memory-making decision you are making for yourself?
6. Greg then shared several reasons we should be baptized, even though as John Wesley said, "baptism is neither essential to, nor sufficient for, salvation." Do you agree with Greg's reasons all believers should be baptized? Would you like Greg to baptize you?
7. Greg also talked about a "Baptism Remembrance" ceremony. Even if you were baptized as a believer with understanding, sometimes participating in baptism again serves as a powerful motivator in our Christian walk. It should not be considered "re-baptism" as if the first one didn't take. Instead, think of it as another celebration of your baptism and a re-committal to Christ. Are you interested in a baptism remembrance with Greg?