



*...FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE
AND PEOPLE AND NATION -REV. 3:9*

Part 7

Baptism & Our New Identity

The growth of the Church

- Acts 2:41 – 3000 accept Peter’s message, repent of their sin of rejecting the Promised One, and are baptized
- Acts 4:4 – 5000 **men** – total number may have been as high as 10,000 according to some scholars.
- Acts 6:7 – “. . . the word of God spread” & “large number of priests become obedient to the faith.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was the main thing you took away from the message today?

Even though baptism is symbolic and not a necessary part of salvation, can you legitimately consider yourself a follower of Jesus if you are unwilling to declare yourself openly?

Do you agree or disagree with John’s statement that: *In the New Testament, all of these things were inseparably connected to a **local church**, not just the Universal Body of Christ. When a person in Ephesus was baptized, he or she was identified and united with the church at Ephesus . . . they didn’t just become consumer Christians and bounce from church to church like it was some kind of spiritual smorgasbord. Why or Why not?*

Recommended Reading:

Being the Body by Chuck Colson

It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian by Tod E. Bolsinger

The growth of opposition

- Acts 4:21 – threatened & released
- Acts 5:17 – arrested
- Acts 5:27 & 40 – interrogated, threatened and flogged
- Acts 7:58 – first martyr
- Acts 8:1 – 3 – persecution of **whole** church – up until this point the pressure was on the leaders of the Church, mainly the Apostles.
- The persecution scatters the Church to “Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.”

¹ And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:1 – 3

Acts 9:1 & 2 — ¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

What is the meaning of baptism?

1. Baptism is _____

Baptism isn’t a _____ of salvation, it is symbolic of the salvation we possess.

2. Baptism is _____

Baptism is _____ in the Christian life that can be done and then you move on.

3. Baptism _____ as belonging to “the Way.”

4. Baptism symbolizes a _____ to Christ and to one another.

5. Baptism symbolizes our _____

The word **BAPTIZE** means to _____ or _____ and it pictures a person becoming an ***inseparable part*** of something.

In the New Testament, all of these things were inseparably connected to _____

Acts 4:32 — All the believers were ***one in heart and mind***. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Baptism expresses the reality of _____ and initiates us into a _____ in life – we become part of the solution.

“The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God’s people—strengthened by preaching and sacrament—go out of the church door into the world to be the Church. We don’t go to church; we are the Church.” —Ernest Southcott