

THE LOCAL CHURCH II: ORDINANCES 1 Cor. 15:3-6

Christianity is **radically** different than any other religion in the world: It is not primarily a philosophy, nor an ethical system or even a religion. Christianity is about: Facts → **Christ died &** → then meaning → **for our sins** The Bible from beginning to end is **rooted in history** → **God acting in history**:

Creation Fall Flood Call of Abraham Passover: Ex. 12:24-28

Deuteronomy 15:15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Deuteronomy 16:12 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

That great future event!

Jeremiah 16:14-15 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

The Christ Event (incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, rapture, 2nd Coming)

Without Historical events we have no Christianity!!! Josh. 4:19-24

Christianity has two ordinances. In order to be considered an ordinance three tests must be passed:

- **Commanded by Christ**
- **Observed in the early church**
- **Expounded in in the Epistles**

I. The **Initial Rite: Baptism**

1. Baptism is a symbol / symbolic

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized (ἐβαπτίσθημεν) into Jesus Christ were baptized (ἐβαπτίσθημεν) into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- **A picture / symbol of the death, burial, & resurrection of Christ**
- **A picture / symbol of our identification with Christ**
- **A picture / symbol of our union with Christ**

1 Corinthians 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.

Colossians 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.

2. Baptism is of believers **only!**

We believe in the baptism of believers (Credobaptism) not the baptism of non-believers / unbelievers! (paedobaptism)

A. Scriptural proof:

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:26-40

Acts 16:29-34 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, **and** to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, **believing in God with all his house.**

B. Logical proof: Must be a picture &/ symbol of something that has happened

C. Historical proof: This is what we find everywhere in early church history. Any other form / meaning had to be introduced and defended vigorously!

3. Baptism is by **Immersion**

A. Etymological proof (βαπτίζω, βαπτισμός):

These words are **never** translated, merely transliterated → **much like the word angel!**

The root word (βάπτω) is found in: the New Testament

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may **dip** (βάψη) the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

John 13:26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when **I have dipped (βάψας) it**. And when he **had dipped (ἐμβάψας)** the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture **dipped (βεβαμμένον)** in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

This word is not a religious word → it is used extensively in the secular world for the dyeing of clothing!

This word was also used extensively in the LXX and was almost always translated dip.

Exodus 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and **dip (βάψαντες)** it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel....

Leviticus 11:32 And upon whatsoever any of them, when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean...it must **be put (βαφήσεται)** into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed.

2 Kings 8:15 And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and **dipped (ἐβάψεν)** it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazeel reigned in his stead.

Joshua 3:15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were **dipped (ἐβάφησαν)** in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

βαπτίζω itself is also found in the LXX:

2 Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and **dipped (ἐβαπτίσαστο)** himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

It is also found in the apocryphal book Judith

Judith 12:7 Then Holofernes commanded his guard that they should not stay her: thus she abode in the camp three days, and went out in the night into the valley of Bethulia, and **washed (ἐβαπτίζετο)** herself in a fountain of water by the camp.

βαπτισμός is found in:

Mark 7:4,8 And when they come from the market, except they **wash**, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the **washing** of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the **washing** of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Could this be sprinkling or pouring?

Also the NT has words for sprinkling! (Verb:ῥαντίζω Noun:ῥαντισμός)

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer **sprinkling (ῥαντίζουσα)** the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **Hebrews 9:19** For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and **sprinkled (ἐρράντισεν)** both the book, and all the people,

Hebrews 9:21 Moreover he **sprinkled (ἐρράντισεν)** with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. **Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts **sprinkled (ἐρραντισμένοι)** from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. **Hebrews 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood

of sprinkling (ῥαντισμοῦ), that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and **sprinkling (ῥαντισμὸν)** of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

B. Circumstantial proof:

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was **much water there**: and they came, and were baptized.

Matthew 3:5-6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him **in Jordan**, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway **out of the water**: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Acts 8:36-39 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, **See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?** 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both (ἀμφότεροι) **into (εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ) the water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up **out of the water (ἐκ τοῦ ὕδατος)**, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

C. Historical proof:

3 modes: 1. Immersion (dipping, plunging) 2. Affusion (pouring) 3. Aspersio (sprinkling)