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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

In the English translations of the Greek text baptism is what is referred to as a transliteration of the Greek word *baptisma*. Those who study the Greek language tell us that this word means “to dip, to plunge, to immerse.” The Bible clearly substantiates this definition for it uses the phrase “buried” to describe baptism. Colossians 2:12 reads, “**buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Again, in Romans 6:3-4, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we **were buried with Him through baptism** into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” These passages prove that baptism is immersion in water which eliminates either sprinkling or pouring as acceptable forms of baptism

After Philip had preached Jesus to the Ethiopian nobleman the Bible says, “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” It is obvious in preaching Jesus that Philip taught the Ethiopian the necessity of being immersed in water. Philip told the Ethiopian he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart and the Ethiopian confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” That is when the Bible expressly states, “**And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water**, and he baptized him.” Both going down into the water would not have been necessary if sprinkling or pouring were acceptable forms of baptism. (See Acts 8:27-40).

Baptism is a command. When Peter had preached the gospel to Cornelius and his household, he asked, ““Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And **he commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord.” (Acts 10:47-48).

Baptism is where one contacts the blood of Jesus which washes away sin. Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34). One is baptized into the death of Jesus (Romans 6:3-4). Ananias addressed these words to Saul, “And now, why do you tarry, Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins....” (Acts 22:16). It is in baptism where the penitent believer receives the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). It is in baptism that one gets “into Christ” where salvation is located (Galatians 3:27; 2 Timothy 2:12). Dear reader, have you been baptized for the remission of your sins? greenplainchurchofhfcirst.org.