

# ***THE DOORWAY TO A NEW LIFE***

- Matthew 28:18-20** Christ's commission to his disciples was to "Go, teach and baptize all nations." Jesus used His last parting words to address the subject of baptism.
- Mark 16:16** Jesus teaches us that he who "believes the gospel *and is baptized* shall be saved." Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:20).
- Romans 6:3-6** Baptism is symbolic of a death to the old nature, burial of sins, followed by a resurrection to a new life.
- Matthew 28:19** It is important that people be taught truth before they are baptized.
- Acts 2:37, 38** Before baptism, there must first be repentance of sin (Prov. 28:13).
- 2 Corinthians 5:17** When we are born again in Christ, we become "new creatures" putting the old life behind us and embracing the new.
- Ephesians 4:4, 5** There is only one true method of Bible baptism.
- 1 Peter 2:21** The Christian is to "follow the steps" of his Lord by following His example.
- Matthew 3:13-17** Jesus was baptized by immersion (gently lowered beneath the water and brought up again) "to fulfill all righteousness."
- John 3:23** John baptized where there was "much water"—showing us that true baptism requires a lot of water (because of the immersion principle).
- Colossians 2:12** We are "buried with Him (Jesus) in baptism" which again shows immersion.
- Acts 8:35-39** Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch by immersion after he taught him.
- Matthew 15:9** We "worship in vain" when we substitute God's doctrines for the commandments of men. Therefore, false forms of baptism should be forsaken.
- John 1:12, 13** When baptized and born again, we receive spiritual power to do God's will.
- Acts 19:1-5** Rebaptism is our privilege, 1) if we have been baptized in a way contrary to the Bible method, 2) if we have fallen away from Christ and are returning to Him or 3) if we have learned more life-changing truth and desire to show our love and loyalty to follow Jesus into all truth.
- 2 Corinthians 11:2** Baptism is like a wedding. We pledge to belong to Christ and love Him in sickness, health, rich or poor, and forsake all others. We will make mistakes, but with Jesus as our guide and strength, we mature to be more like Him.
- Acts 22:16** When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and leads us into truth, we should hasten to move ahead in faith and be baptized.