All about Water Baptism
Welcome to MCA Water Baptism Class.

This is another important step you are taking in your Spiritual Life. There is no one greater than Jesus Christ Himself who will be pleased by this decision you are making to publicly declare your faith in the Lordship of Christ.

It’s the right decision you are making. No turning back. The cross before you and let the world be behind you.

To help you with the decision you have made to be Water Baptised, we as a church here at MCA would like to help you in making sure you know all about Water Baptism. We have carefully prepared this guide which will help you understand the need for Water Baptism in each one your life.

Apart from the class which is MANDATORY, this guide will be an additional help to clear any doubts concerning Water Baptism.

Take time to read the notes and scripture verses. Be blessed and we promise to continue to pray as you take this “NEXT STEP”.

We have also put in some general instructions that need to be followed on the day of Water Baptism.

God bless

Pastor

Next Steps Ministries
All about Water Baptism

Introduction:

Water Baptism is another symbolic act that Jesus Christ commanded of all new believers. Water Baptism is intended to follow after salvation, which is the moment that the believer truly accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and His atoning sacrifice for our sins on a cross.


In the PAOC, believers are baptized by full immersion in water. This practice of Water Baptism is a public testimony to the world symbolizing the death of the believer's sinful nature and the new birth in Jesus Christ. It is a very important event in the life of the believer, confirming the amazing and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Five basic truths of Water Baptism.

Water baptism is vital because Jesus commanded it.
Water baptism signifies burial and a new life.
Water baptism publicly declares our allegiance to Christ.
Water baptism indicates the seriousness of our commitment.
Water baptism is the visible sign that seals the spiritual commitment.
Water baptism is an act of obedience to our Savior and Lord.

Let's take a look at Mathew 28:19 at this point.

Matthew 28:16-20 is known as the Great Commission. It is important to take note that Jesus spoke these words after He was crucified, resurrected and had appeared to hundreds of people.
Why is it important that new believers be baptized without delay?

If you read through the New Testament to see why water baptism was stressed, you will see the suddenness with which believers were baptized after conversion, and the great emphasis Christ and the apostles placed on water baptism.

There is no indication in Scripture that anyone was put on probation before being baptized in water. Baptism stood at the very threshold of Christian life. In almost every instance of detailed conversion and baptism, the emphasis suggests urgency and imminence. The Ethiopian was baptized immediately in a pond of water by the road (8:36); Paul was baptized by Ananias within hours after conversion (9:18); Cornelius and his friends were baptized the same day they came to the Lord (10:47); and the Philippian jailer and his household were baptized “immediately” (16:33).

After a person dies, preparation begins immediately for burial. When a person is converted and dies to sin and his old life, preparation should be made immediately to bury the old sinful life. Baptism indicates the beginning of a new direction for life — a “newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

The disciples in the Early Church seemed to know how subtle the enemy is, that delaying obedience to Jesus’ command to be baptized in water opens the door for doubt and spiritual failure. New converts need to quickly make a public confession of their past guilt and sinful lives. The longer they wait for baptism, the less likely they feel the need for it.
Meaning of Baptism

What Does “Baptize” Mean?

The term baptize does not belong to any particular denomination—it’s merely the English transliteration of the Greek term baptizo, meaning “to dunk, dip, plunge, submerge, or immerse.” Originally, it had no religious connotation. Rather, the word baptize was typically used to describe a ship that had been sunk in battle or a piece of cloth that was dipped in dye. Other times it is referred to someone who had drowned or a cup that was dipped into a pitcher. In the many references in the Bible to water baptism, none of them refer to a sprinkling or pouring of water.

Then the meaning expanded to include the function of washing. While we would not say, “Go baptize your hands before you eat,” Jewish culture used the word to mean “cleanse,” and in time, the term was associated with the ritual of ceremonial washing. That ceremony later became part of the process in which Gentiles could convert to Judaism.

Besides the ritual bath, a number of things were involved in conversion—including circumcision, a covenant meal, and consent to obey Jewish law. The term used to describe the bath was bapto, meaning “immerse.” Persons desiring to become Jewish would baptize themselves—an outward sign of dying to the old life as a Gentile and being resurrected to new life as a Jew. It was a pledge of allegiance to their new identity.
Baptism: Option or Obligation? Text: Acts 8:26-39

The Bible leaves us no option to pick and choose from among its commands. Baptism, for example, is not simply a possibility for us to accept or reject. It is a spiritual obligation for every believer and an awesome privilege as well. In the act of baptism, a believer makes a public confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a message to the world that from now on we intend to follow Christ. After the time of Pentecost, a Christian named Philip had a conversation with a man from Ethiopia. Philip told his new friend the good news about Jesus Christ. Eventually the Ethiopian said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36) Philip replied that if his friend believed with all his heart, he could be baptized. This passage from God’s Word raises several important questions about the practice of baptism.


1. Why should we be baptized?

The first reason we should be baptized is that Jesus commanded us to do so. Second, He was baptized Himself. Jesus loved us enough to identify with us. Third, baptism is a picture of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Fourth, it is also a picture of our experience in salvation—that of dying to the old, sinful self and rising to walk in the new life of the Holy Spirit. Fifth, baptism identifies us with the body of Christ. A church celebrates together the baptism of a member. Finally, baptism declares our faith in a future bodily resurrection.
2. Who should be baptized?

Some might assume that anyone who wants to be a church member should be baptized. This is the wrong answer, however. According to the Scriptures, only those who believe in Jesus Christ should be baptized. We need to be careful with the word “belief,” however. When we say that we believe in Christ, we are stating more than mental affirmation of His existence. The Bible’s idea of “believe” involves action. If we believe in Jesus, we do something about it: we confess, repent, and live in a new way. Philip told his Ethiopian friend that baptism was available if the man believed with all his heart. (Acts 8:37) In Acts 16:31-34, Paul and Silas baptized a whole household after the family began to believe in Christ. Only an individual capable of placing his or her faith in Christ is eligible before God to be baptized.

3. What is the proper method of baptism?

Christians throughout the world recognize three methods of baptism. The first of these involves the pouring of water, generally over the head of the new believer. The second involves sprinkling the water. The final version of baptism is full immersion into the water. Our word for baptism comes from the Greek word which was used to describe such things as ships sinking. The Greek words for “pour” and “sprinkle” are never used in the New Testament in reference to baptism. We baptize by immersion simply because that procedure fulfills the most precise understanding of the command of Jesus in the Bible.
4. Who can baptize?

In the New Testament, it was the disciples who baptized new believers. (John 4:1-2) Philip baptized the Ethiopian, and Peter and his fellow apostles baptized thousands of converts at Pentecost. John 4 mentions that Jesus Himself did not baptize. We also know that in the New Testament church, pastors baptized new believers. The pattern from Scripture, then, is that this Christian practice is the duty of the pastor. The wisest policy, however, is for baptism to be the work of the pastor.

5. What is the relationship of baptism to salvation?

The Word of God does not teach that baptism is a requirement for salvation, nor that the act itself saves us. The clear and consistent teaching of Scripture is that we are saved through the grace of God when we believe in Christ and place our trust in Him. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The thief on the cross beside Jesus was saved without baptism. Salvation precedes baptism and never depends upon it. Baptism is the obedient response to our salvation by Christ. Acts 2:37-38, John 3:1-6, and Mark 16:12-16 are often used to argue for a salvation that comes through baptism, but the context of these passages shows that this is not true.
Significance and the Need for Water Baptism

Mathew 28:19

What is water baptism?

Water baptism is a __________________________
________________________ of your decision to follow Jesus. It is
also a __________________________ and
_________________________ of what Christ has done for
you, your old life is buried and your new life has begun!

Baptize comes from a _____________________ word that
means __________________ or totally
__________________________ in water. This is why believers are
dipped completely under the water, following how it is done
in Scripture.

When are we ready for baptism?

1. Repent or ____________________ __________________
   from sin
   __________________ by completely trusting that Jesus died
   and rose again for you.

What water baptism is not?

1. __________________________ of sins
2. __________________________ baptism
Important passages:

1. God instructs John the Baptist to begin baptizing believers
   
   "...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of __________________ for the forgiveness of sins."

2. _______________ was baptized by John _______________
   
   "...As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water."

3. _______________ continued to baptize Christians
   
   Peter tells crowd to repent and be baptized- Acts 2:38, 41
   Phillip baptized those who believed immediately- Acts 8:12, 36-38
   Saul regained his sight and was baptized- Acts 9:18
   The Gentiles (not just Jews) were baptized- Acts 10:47, 48
   The Jailer and his family were baptized- Acts 16:31, 33

4. Jesus ________________________ us to “Go and Baptize”
   
   "... __________________ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

5. Baptism is a powerful ___________________ that helps us better ______________________ what Christ did for us. ________________ 6:3-5
Why should we be baptized?

1. Obedience: Matt. 28:____, ____

2. Follow Jesus’ ____________________

3. Desire to make a public __________________ of faith


Things to remember for Sunday/ day of Baptism

- Please be in the Baptismal Area no later than 8:30am and 11:00am.
- Please bring the following items:
  - PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT (ladies please wear a tank top underneath)
  - Light coloured shorts or light coloured pants
  - Large Towel
  - Plastic bag to put wet clothes in
  - Clothing to wear afterwards
  - Hairdryer (optional)

- Answers to questions (worked on in class and practiced at home 😊)
Questions to answer: (will be asked when you are inside the tank)

1. Why did I decide to get baptized now?

2. Share with us something that the Lord has done for you?