

HOPE through Prophecy



Lesson 16 – Revelation’s River of Life

1. In speaking of the River of Life, what does the prophet Ezekiel say will happen with every creature that comes in contact with it? Ezek. 47:9
2. What kind of water did Jesus promise to give the Samaritan woman? Jn. 4:10-15
3. What is this “water” symbolic of? Tit. 3:4-5; Jn. 3:5

The River of Life is symbolic of the renewing and regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the effectual part of the Christian rite of baptism.

4. Did Jesus place any importance on baptism? Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:16; Jn. 3:3-5
5. Why did Jesus tell John that He needed to be baptized? Mt. 3:15
6. What does Peter tell us that Jesus gave us to follow? 2 Pet. 2:21

Jesus not only taught His disciples to baptize people in the water, but was Himself baptized in the water “to fulfill all righteousness.” Peter tells us that Jesus lived His life as an example for us to teach us what we should do and how we should live. We will never go wrong if we follow Jesus’ example.

7. What does baptism symbolize? Rom. 6:6-7
8. When a person receives Christ, what do they become? 2 Cor. 5:17

Paul tells us in Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ.” Baptism is a symbol of our acceptance of Christ’s will and ways for our lives; that from the point of our acceptance of Him as Lord and Master of our lives, we are “dead” to our old ways. The “old man” of sin has died with Him, and we now walk “in newness of life.” We are “new creatures.” We get a new start!

9. Is the way that we are baptized important? Mt. 3:16-17; Jn. 3:23; 2 Pet. 2:21; Eph. 4:5

There is only one method described in the Bible for baptism, and that is immersion beneath the water. The Greek word for baptism is "baptize," which literally means "to immerse." Baptism is symbolic of burial in the watery grave.

10. Read Romans 6:7-14. What does the Bible promise to free us from?

11. How are we freed from sin? What does the Bible tell us to do in order to live a new Christian life? Rom. 6:11; 2 Cor. 5:7

To "reckon" means to "consider it done." The Bible tells us that we are to "walk by faith, not by sight." We are not to live out our lives based on what we see – how we view our own inabilities and weaknesses – but on what we know to be true according to God's Word. We are to "reckon ourselves dead to sin AND alive to God. It isn't enough to reckon ourselves dead to sin. We must believe that Christ has given us power to live a life according to His will; a life that is free from sin. And though we may not see all the results just yet, we are to "consider it done!"

12. The Baptism is like getting _____. 2 Cor. 11:2

13. If we call Jesus our Lord, what else should we be doing? Lk. 6:46

Baptism is about commitment. When we call Jesus our "Lord," then by our own admission we must be choosing to serve Him. Just as in a marriage commitment, we choose to live for that one special person, binding up all our interests together, and becoming one in purpose and action (Mt. 19:5), so it is when we make our commitment to Christ.

14. A person who is joined to Christ is also joined to a _____. Ac. 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13

Some people say, "I would like to get baptized and give my life to Jesus, but I really don't want to join a church." Yet the Bible tells us that the church is Christ's body – it is a very important and integral part of Him. To be baptized and not join a church is like saying to your spouse, "I would love to marry you, but I really don't want to live together in the same house." To join Christ is to become a part of His body, the church.

15. Is the baptism of the Spirit all that matters? Ac. 10:47; 19:1-6; 22:13-16

Some people feel that the water baptism, the public declaration of faith, is really insignificant as long as one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, the Bible teaches that both are important. Going back to our wedding example, this would be like saying, "Let's get married, but let's not tell anyone we're married." The baptism is your opportunity to confess to the Lord and all others your commitment to Him.

16. What does the Bible say to those who are having a hard time deciding for Christ? 2 Cor. 6:2; Ac. 22:16

What are you waiting for? Now is the time!