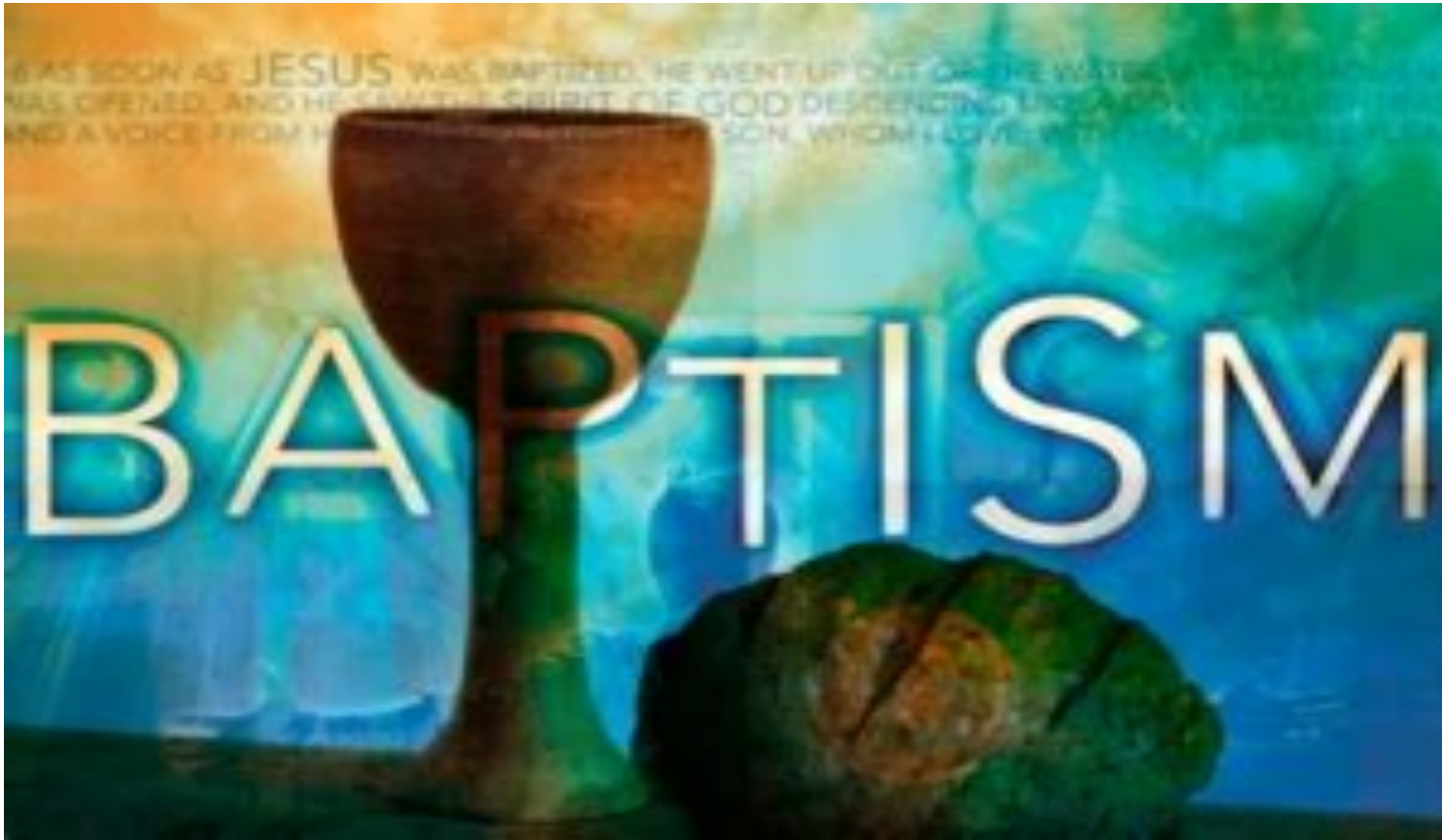


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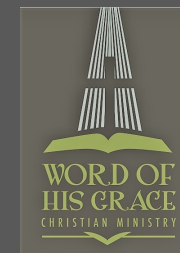
Word of His Grace
Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

Compiled by Pastor Angel.
Please submit any friendly questions to:

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Note: These guides are not meant to be exhaustive. Also, other than our logo below, we do not own the rights to any background or inserted pictures.



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Baptism

Ordinances are defined as established rites or ceremonies. The Bible speaks of only two ordinances: *Baptism* and the *Lord's Supper* (also known as *Communion*). These two ordinances were instituted by Christ, taught by the apostles, and practiced by the New Testament Church. Baptism and the Lord's Supper remind us of our union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the ordinance of baptism?

“Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were *baptized* of him in Jordan, *confessing* their sins” (*Matthew 3:6*). See *verses 1-2*.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were *baptized into Jesus Christ* were baptized into his death? 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*” (*Romans 6:3-4*).

Did baptism originate with the Christian Church?

“And he shall *wash* his flesh with *water* in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people” (*Leviticus 16:24*).

NOTE: The practice of washing for ceremonial purification was practiced long before the coming of Jesus Christ. Baptism was also practiced as a means of initiation into the faith for new converts. Today, baptism is an outward testimony of one's inward conversion.

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The ordinance itself does not confer special grace and does not save; it is done by faith and a witness of what has already taken place internally. It is a symbol of burial, death to self and coming up alive in Christ.

How is one baptized?

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

“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” (Matthew 3:16).

NOTE: Scripture reveals the method of baptism was by immersion.

Is there anything required prior to baptism?

“Go ye therefore, and *baptize* all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *Teaching them* to observe all things whatsoever *I have commanded* you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).

NOTE: Knowledge of Jesus Christ, the gospel message, and the Christian faith is recommended prior to baptism.

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“Then Peter said unto them, *Repent*, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the *remission of sins*, and ye shall receive *the gift* of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

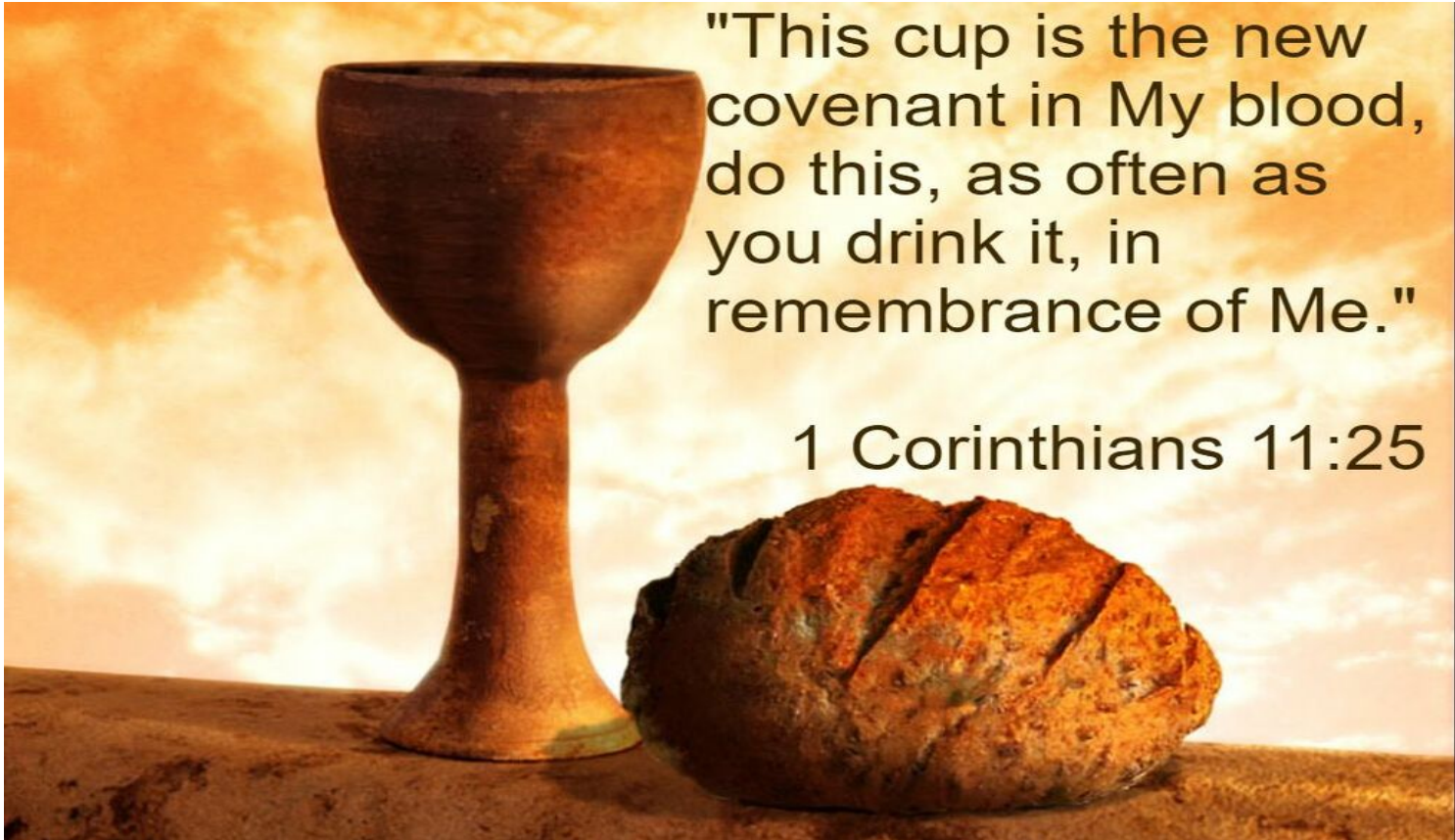
Can one be re-baptized?

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye *received the Holy Ghost* since ye *believed*? And they said unto him, We have not so *much as heard* whether there be any Holy Ghost” (Acts 19:1-2).

“When they *heard* this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5). See *verses 1-7* for context.

NOTE: Upon further revelation and instruction, the believers who had previously received the baptism of repentance by John the Baptist, were now re-baptized in the name of Christ, after hearing the gospel. See *1 Cor. 15:1-3* for the gospel. Some believers today are compelled to be re-baptized after coming into a clearer understanding of truth.

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"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

What is Communion or the Lord's Supper?

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this *passover* with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the *cup*, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took *bread*, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my *body* which is given for you: this do in *remembrance* of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the *new testament* in my *blood*, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:14-20). See also (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:17-25; & John 13:21-30).

NOTE: The New Testament points to *Jesus Christ* as the *Lamb of God*, prefigured in the Old Testament by the passover lamb. The *Lord's Supper* is a memorial of the *one-time sacrifice* of Jesus Christ on the cross. Christians partake of the Lord's Supper and joyously receive through the *Spirit*, fellowship with *Christ* and one another. The elements (*bread & wine*) do not change, and it is not a reoccurring, daily sacrifice.

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“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even *Christ* our passover is *sacrificed for us*” (1 Corinthians 5:7) See also (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 4:14; Revelation 5:6; Romans 5:11; Hebrews 9:23-26).

How does the apostle Paul describe the Lord’s Supper?

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in *remembrance* of me. After the same manner also he took the *cup*, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this *bread*, and drink this *cup*, ye do *the Lord's death* till he come” (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

What does the communion table communicate to believers?

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having *obtained eternal redemption* for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the *blood of Christ*, who through the *eternal Spirit* offered *himself* without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:12-14).

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What about the words spoken, “*this is my body*” in the gospels (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; & Luke 22:19)?

NOTE: 1) the context does not allow for a literal interpretation 2) the bread and wine are continuously referred to as bread and wine 3) the disciples did not teach the bread and wine became another substance 4) the bread and wine symbolized the coming death of Christ upon Calvary 5) eating literal flesh and blood was a violation of Levitical law 6) the Lord’s supper is not a sacrifice but a memorial 7) Jesus repeatedly spoke in *spiritual terms*:

“*I am the bread of life*” (John 6:48),

“*I am the light of the world*” (John 9:5),

“*I am the door*” (John 10:9),

“*I am the good shepherd*” (John 10:14),

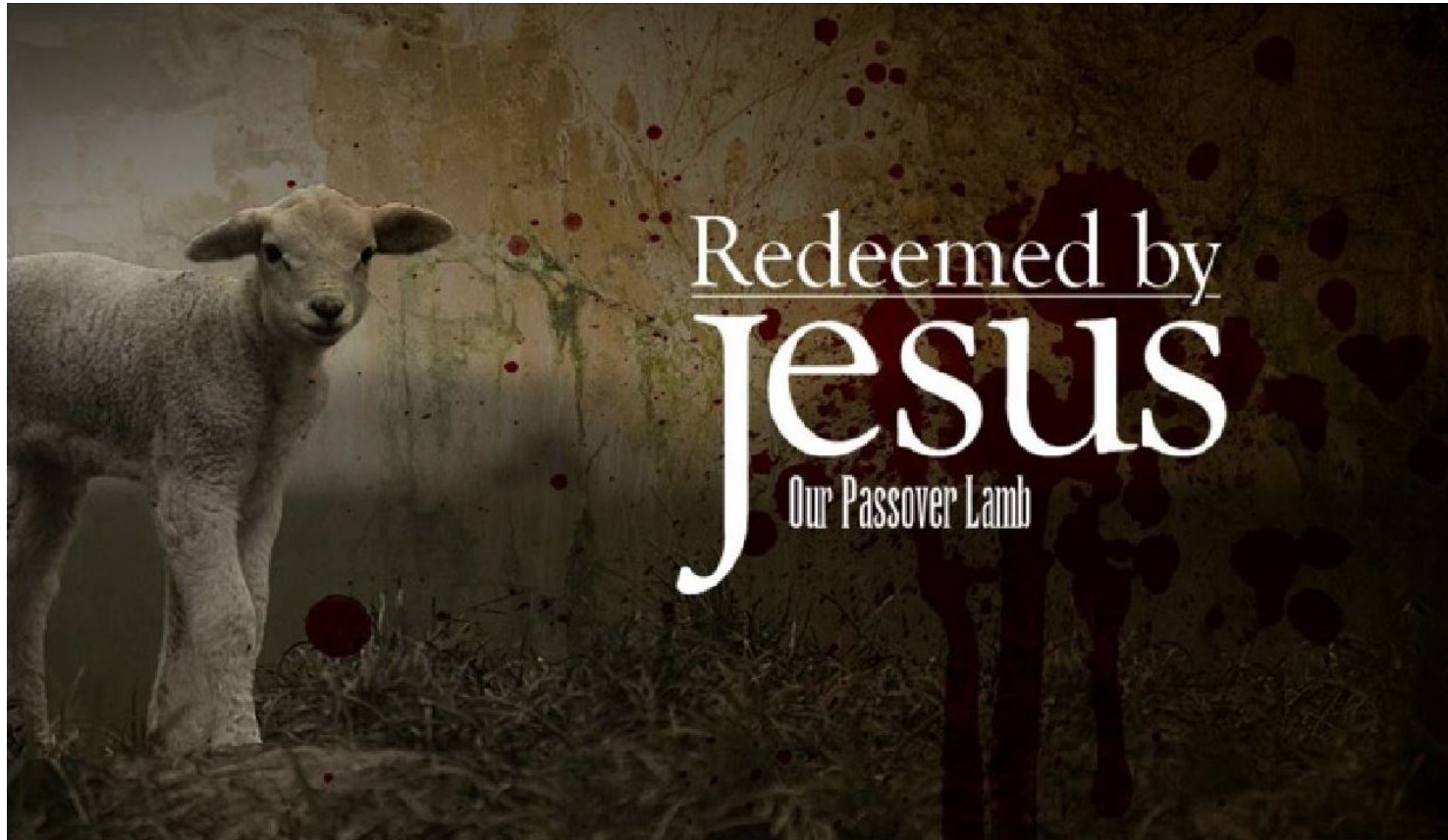
“*I am the resurrection*” (John 11:25), and

“*I am the true vine*” (John 15:5).

Is the one-time sacrifice of Jesus Christ sufficient for sin?

“Who needeth not *daily*, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did *once*, when he offered up *himself*” (Hebrews 7:27).

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“For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now *once* in the end of the world hath he appeared to *put away sin* by the sacrifice of *himself*” (Hebrews 9:26).

“By the which will we are *sanctified* through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*. And every priest *standeth daily* ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But *this man*, after he had offered *one sacrifice* for sins for ever, *sat down* on the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:10-12).

“And not only so, but we also *joy in God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have *now* received the *atonement*” (Romans 5:11).

How long will we observe these two ordinances?

“For in that he died, he died unto sin *once*: but in that he liveth, *he liveth* unto God” (Romans 6:10).

“For I say unto you, I will not *drink* of the fruit of the vine, *until* the kingdom of God shall come” (Luke 22:18).

NOTE: Christians rejoice in our resurrected Lord and will one day eat and drink with Christ in His eternal Kingdom.