

# Continuing **STEDFASTLY** ACTS 2:42 **ACTS 31** 08.08.2021 · Vol. 32 · Is.32

## **MATTHEW 3:1-17**



Baptism in the Bible is vital in the lives of believers. It is one of the two ordinances that our Saviour Jesus Christ commanded the Church to faithfully observe perpetually.

Our text and our memory verse clearly point to this truth. The forerunner of Christ and our Saviour Himself observed this one baptism.

In our text, the forerunner had baptized those from Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan and were baptized of him in Jordan BUT had second thoughts when Jesus came to him to be baptized of him.

But our memory verse shows how Jesus upheld John the Baptist's baptism.

"And Jesus answering, said unto him..." This is a direct statement from the Saviour about the importance of the Baptist baptism. He had to confirm John's authority as the God-sent administrator of the very first water baptism. Our Saviour had to face squarely the Baptist's ministry that all men who repent and would follow Christ, must submit to Baptist baptism. The lofty and the lowly, the learned and the unlearned, those in power and the powerless must all alike submit to God-sent authority via the Baptist's baptism.

"...Suffer it to be so now..." This is a statement of urgency from the Master. Baptism must not be delayed. Here is our Saviour seem to be saying, "Let me have my request, do not go on to object, but comply with my desire; let it be done now, immediately, directly, at this present time. Do not put me off with any excuse." It is a proper season for it, even "now," since the time is not yet come that I am to baptize with the Holy Ghost. The same statement further shows the Saviour's willingness to go through His humiliation, abasement. Indeed, He chose to be humble, to obey whoever is given the authority. It was John the Baptist who was given such authority and the Saviour and Founder of the Church chose to follow and dare not circumvent the chain of authority.

"...for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness..." Here is a statement from the Saviour that no one is to be exempted. From His

obedience to His disciples and to those who would follow Him must do according to His example. He and his disciples (and to us today) must do whatsoever is just, fit, and requisite whatever the circumstances. Here is the Saviour's mind and heart — that every messenger of God, and every follower must observe every divine appointment, and to honour every divine ordinance. Here further is a testament of the Saviour's readiness to obey all God's righteous precepts, and to justify God and approve His counsel. Here is a statement showing the fact that the Saviour was wont to celebrating God's wisdom in sending the Baptist to prepare His way. Here is a statement that acknowledges the role of the Forerunner of calling men to repentance, and in that way fitting them for the blessings of His kingdom. Here further is a statement establishing John's mission (a great honour being accorded him by the Messiah by receiving his baptism) as well as establishing the Lord's mission (for after He was baptized, the testimonies of the Spirit and voice from heaven were given Him in the presence of the multitude assembled at Jordan). Surely, this baptism was to fulfil all righteousness, it was not for someone to become righteous as Jesus had no sin to wash away. As Christ came to fulfil all righteousness, moral and ceremonial, and baptism being a part of his Father's will, which He came to do, it became Him to fulfil this also. And since it became Christ, it cannot be unbecoming us to submit to this ordinance. Christ having strongly urged the expediency and equity of the administration of baptism to Him, which showed His eager desire after it, and the lowliness of His mind; and John being convinced, and overcome by the force of His reasoning, agrees to his baptism.

"...Then he suffered him." Here is a statement that Bible baptism must indeed be followed by all believers regardless of statuses and backgrounds. Here indeed is a confirmation that Bible baptism is Baptist administered and that it must not be withheld to those who have professed faith in Christ. Here is further a statement that administrator of such honored baptism be administered without delay and without apology!

**TITLE: BIBLE BAPTISM**

**TEXT: MATTHEW 3:1-17**

**MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 3:15**

**I. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT BIBLE BAPTISM IS A \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. John's baptism is no doubt a \_\_\_\_\_ ministry. The masses including the leaders who came to his baptism as recorded in our text in verses 5-6 confirm this assertion. It records that all people from Judea and nearby places sought to be baptized of him in Jordan. The river was not the most convenient free flow in the area but because his ministry required much water which this river could allow, he chose this river so he could discharge his ministry according to God's plan. The words, "went up straightway out of the water" in verse 16 records this truth. Our Saviour's obedience to his baptism further show the importance of this truth.
- B. A ministry is \_\_\_\_\_. John 1:5 mentions that God sent a man for this purpose. Paul regarded his God-given ministry as an office that he was compelled to magnify (Rom. 11:13). Ministry does not depend on convenience or comfort. It is obeying God's way, God's word and God's purpose whatever the cost. Ministry must be carried out God's way come what may. Such is John's baptism, which, in turn was clearly showcased in the baptism of our Saviour and Lord Jesus. He had to walk some 60 miles from Galilee to Jordan River just to be baptized of John. He could have called John to where He was but chose to go to him in Jordan.
- C. A ministry is \_\_\_\_\_. It must please our God. Our text confirms this in our Saviour's baptism. The Son being baptized, came the Spirit descending like a dove, and the Father saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." We must then treat baptism as one of our valued ministries in Church. Baptism must be one of the highlights in our services. Without baptism, the Church is obviously not pleasing God.
- D. A ministry must be \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. Our Saviour continued this ministry when he started His earthly ministry as recorded in John 4:1-2. Before He left for heaven, He made sure that these two ministries — preaching and baptism — will perpetually be carried out by His Church so He issued the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-60). A Church with great ministries (music, ushering, school, etc.) and great properties but no record of baptism has failed the Saviour.

**II. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT BIBLE BAPTISM AS A MINISTRY IS COUPLED WITH \_\_\_\_\_ PREACHING.**

- A. Our text in verses 1-6 mention two of John's ministry — \_\_\_\_\_ and baptizing. Here and in the other Gospels, we read that John the Baptist was the last prophet. He broke the 400 years of silence. He was the voice crying in the wilderness. Coupled with his strong preaching, John baptized those who came to him. Verse 5 of our text relates that all the people came to be baptized of Him. This was the very first record of a man dipping a person in water as a symbol of his belief on the coming Christ. Those who came and were baptized first showed repentance.
- B. John's preaching ministry set forth the distinctive of \_\_\_\_\_ preaching.
1. He described his preaching as the voice crying in the wilderness which defined the dynamism of every true Baptist preacher — speaking loudly, smiting hands, stamping feet.
  2. His preaching further was done in the wilderness which signaled Baptist preaching is never location-bound.
  3. His preaching further was the same to all kinds of people which set Baptist preaching to transcend culture and peoples.
  4. His preaching was clear — repentance and faith to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He started thus:
    - "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"

- He introduced himself not Christ but the one who would "... make straight the way of the Lord..."
- He preached to the religious leaders thus: "...Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance..."
- He spake to repentant thus: "Exact no more than that which is appointed to you."
- To the soldiers, he said: "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."
- He introduced the Messiah thus: "...he that cometh after me is mightier than I ... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire ... the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world ... is preferred before me: for he was before me ... the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him... this is the Son of God ... He must increase, but I must decrease ... The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

C. John's baptism always followed his \_\_\_\_\_. He refused baptism without him preaching repentance and faith in Christ. Verse 8 of our text records that he even required "fruits meet for repentance." Verses 11-12 introduce to those seeking his baptism faith in the one mightier than him and shall baptize them "with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

died for our sins according to the scriptures and was buried and rose again according to the scripture. This is why Baptist baptism is also called baptism of repentance. Remember that repentance is change of mind. Our text clearly records this truth.

- B. Bible baptism pleases God if executed God's way. Bible baptism is ONLY by \_\_\_\_\_. It is to be administered ONLY by a Baptist preacher authorized by a Baptist Church. It is to be executed ONLY to a child of God. It is BUT OBEDIENCE to the example of Christ. It is not to be construed as part of our salvation. The candidate is already saved. It is not to wash our sins away. Only the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. It is an identification with our Christ who died for our sins, buried and then rose again.
- C. Bible baptism \_\_\_\_\_. It cost the glory of the Eternal Word. He left heaven, chose to be incarnated, humbled Himself by submitting to the authority of man called John the Baptist. It cost the head of the Baptist and the lives of the apostles. It cost the lives of our forefathers who came after the apostles. It cost the millions of lives of believers throughout the centuries. The Anabaptist-tag which our forefathers received bear witness of this truth. The "anabaptists" then were persecuted not only by the established churches but also those who claim they were Christian churches. The "anabaptist-tag" was coined because our forefathers, accordingly "re-baptized" the "already baptized members of other churches." But our forefathers had to baptize those from the erring churches as they did not pass all the five requisites of Bible baptism. These established and erring churches hated this stance of the Baptists. Hence, they persecuted them.

### III. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEDFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT BIBLE BAPTISM IS A \_\_\_\_\_ - BAPTIST LANDMARK.

A. Bible baptism is a Baptist \_\_\_\_\_, a landmark that must never be changed. Baptism pictures the gospel. I Cor. 15:1-4 record the definition of the gospel — Jesus

### **Conclusion:**

Thank God for this truth. This 2021 and beyond, may we continue stedfastly in our faith on Bible Baptism. May each of us, from this time henceforth, make sure that we uphold and have always a part in preserving and perpetuating this valued ministry in CBBC-LB every service!

## IN JORDAN'S STREAMS

In Jordan stream the Savior stood  
fulfilling righteousness,  
And like a dove the Spirit came  
His heart and life to bless.

Today we gather in Thy name,  
and 'tis a sacred hour;  
Bless these who follow in Thy steps,  
descend in love and pow'r.

Our witness to the world around of  
Thy redeeming grace;  
A witness of our live for Thee,  
our hope to see Thy face.

Nor would we cease to follow Thee,  
content with this alone;  
On thru the garden, Calvary,  
Thy lot shall be our own.

## 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

### August 2021

29	Filipiniana Sunday
22/29	Investors' Sunday

### September 2021

5	Treasure Offering Sunday
12	Grandparents' Sunday

### October 2021

3	Teachers' Sunday
10	Pastor's Appreciation Sunday
20	Prayer Rally (6:00 PM)
21-22	Home Missions Night

### November 2021

1-2	Men's Fellowship
29-30	NBLC 9

### December 2021

5	Pastor's Wife Birthday
16	Christmas Cantata 2021
19	Christmas Gift to Jesus 2021
24	Church Christmas Fellowship
26	Year-End Song Festival
30	SS Teachers' Training 2021
31	Pastor's Wedding Anniversary

## BIBLE READING SCHEDULE Day 7-13

Mon	9-AUG	Luke 8:26-56; Genesis 13:1-14:24; Psalm 7
Tue	10-AUG	Luke 9:1-27; Genesis 15; Psalm 8
Wed	11-AUG	Luke 9:28-62; Genesis 16; Psalm 9
Thu	12-AUG	Luke 10:1-20; Genesis 17; Psalm 10
Fri	13-AUG	Luke 10:21-42; Genesis 18; Psalm 11
Sat	14-AUG	Luke 11:1-28; Genesis 19; Psalm 12
Sun	15-AUG	Luke 11:29-54; Genesis 20; Psalm 13

## LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM	385	FTV	22
Sunday PM	160	Baptism	10
Prayer Mtg	82		

ACTS 31 is the official Sunday publication of Christian Bible  
Baptist Church Los Baños, Nature's Villa, Anos, Los Baños,  
Laguna - Tel 49.5363039  
Rev. Arnold N. Vallejo-Pastor - [www.cbbclosbanos.org](http://www.cbbclosbanos.org)  
Live streaming: Wed 645PM and Sunday Services (10AM/230PM)  
Preaching DVDs are available at Sceptre Publication & Bookstore

## REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY</b> Sunday School · 8:30 AM Morning Service · 10 AM Discipleship · 2:30 PM Group Fellowship · 3 PM Afternoon Service · 5 PM	Doctrine Class · 5:45 PM Prayer Meeting · 6:45 PM
<b>MONDAY</b> BYSC Soulwinning · 5:30 PM	<b>THURSDAY</b> Soulwinning · 6:30 PM
<b>TUESDAY</b> BYSC Bible Study · 5:30 PM	<b>FRIDAY</b> Orchestra Lesson · 5:00 PM Orchestra Practice · 7:30 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> BYSC Dawn Prayer · 5:30 AM	<b>SATURDAY</b> Whole Day Area Visitation & Soulwinning · 8:30 AM Choir · 3:00 PM