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**"A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO BIBLICAL BAPTISM"**

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**Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 1:4-5; John 3:23 (ESV)**

**ATTITUDES REGARDING BAPTISM:**

1. There doesn't seem to be much concern about baptism.
2. There is wide diversity of opinion about what it means and how it ought to be done.

**TRUTH:** There exists today throughout the world an unbaptized church.

**I. REASONS MANY ARE UNBAPTIZED**

1. Ignorance
2. Pride
3. Indifference
4. Defiant
5. Unregenerate

**II. WHAT BIBLICAL BAPTISM IS**

**DEFINITION:** A ceremony by which a person is immersed, dunked, or submerged in water

Two verb forms:

1. Baptō
2. Baptizō

**TRUTH:** Baptizō always means to dip completely and is the word *to drown*, totally submerging, immersing, dunking into water.

**INSIGHT:** John the Baptist was always in the wilderness at the Jordan as a necessity for him to baptize.

**INSIGHT:** You don't need to be in the river unless your plan is to immerse.

## **TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS:**

1. Baptism is a command of God following a profession of faith in Christ for salvation.
2. Biblical baptism is always to be immersed, submerged, plunged into water. Water is never said to be poured onto someone.

## **III. IMMERSION ALONE PICTURES THE WORK OF CHRIST.**

**INSIGHT:** Only immersion symbolizes death, burial, into the water, and resurrection of new life coming out.

**INSIGHT:** Water baptism by immersion is important because it is God's picture of a spiritual reality.

**INSIGHT:** Beloved, all those ceremonies of the Old Testament, all those pictures of spiritual truth are gone...only two remain: The Lord's Supper and Baptism.

**INVITATION:** Matthew 3:13-15, Jesus arrives at the Jordan to be baptized by John. John said, "I have need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?"

V. 15, "Jesus answered...let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to *fulfill all righteousness.*"

**TRUTH:** The act of baptism has to be such that there's an obvious connection with Christ's crucifixion. Baptism has to picture death, burial and resurrection, because those three acts of Christ fulfill the plan of God for men's souls.

**\*Luke 12:50 INSIGHT:** The Trinity of God intended baptism always and only by immersion, for only such a baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world.

**TRUTH:** It is the very nature of public immersion to produce humbling of our pride.