

Lesson 2a: Understanding of Baptisms

Key Verse:	“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4 NASB).
Key Scriptures:	Hebrews 6:1–2 Luke 11:13 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 Matthew 3:11–12; 28:19 Galatians 2:20
Objective:	This lesson teaches the importance of water baptism and the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
Introduction:	<p>Water baptism is a significant step in the life of a believer. It is not just a ceremonial, ritualistic act that we do just because that’s what churches have always done. There is real power and deep meaning in the act of baptism. Jesus Himself was baptized (Luke 3:13–15). If the Son of God submitted to baptism, how much more should we?</p> <p>There is another baptism other than water baptism, and that is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Scriptures abound with instances of believers in the early church receiving this infilling of the Spirit and the radical change it wrought in them. It is a separate experience from salvation and critical to the believer’s ability to walk in God’s power and develop into a strong, stable Christian.</p> <p>These two baptisms are another elementary part of our faith, and a proper understanding of them will further strengthen the foundation we are building in Christ.</p>

I. Water baptism is an important part of the Christian faith.

- What is water baptism?
- Why do we do full immersion? John 3:23 Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
- When should a person be water baptized? Acts 8:12, 34–38; 9:17–18; 10:43–48; 16:14–15, 30–33; 19:1–5

- **Why should a person be water baptized?**

1. It is a command of Jesus (Matt. 28:19).
2. It is “the pledge of a good conscience toward God” (1 Pet. 3:21 NIV).
3. It is the example set by Jesus Himself (Matt. 3:13–17).

- **Baptism in water is a confession of the following:**

1. Our belief in the death and _____ of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3–4).
2. Our belief that we are part of the universal church.
3. Our statement that we have separated from the world.
4. Our statement that we have rejected the devil and have aligned ourselves with God.

II. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is another important baptism.

- **Why should believers be baptized in the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8; John 1:33 Eph. 5:18**

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives new power and boldness to _____ (Acts 1:8; 2:14; 4:31–33).
2. It releases the _____ of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7–11).
3. It leads to the development of the _____ of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23).
4. It makes Jesus more real to us (John 15:26; 16:13–15; Acts 9:17).
5. It produces greater effectiveness in _____ (Rom. 8:26–27; 1 Cor. 14:4, 15).
6. It enables true _____ of God (Acts 2:11; 10:46; John 4:23–24; Eph. 5:18–20).
7. It brings a fresh understanding of and love for the Word of God (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9–16).
8. It gives us power to do what God has called us to do (Acts 1:8).

- **Who needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**

1. We all need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

• **What happened in the Bible when people were filled with the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:4 Acts 4:31 Acts 10:46 Acts 9:17–18 Acts 19:6 Acts 8:17–24 Luke 4:18–19; Acts 10:38**

• **Here are some concluding remarks.**

1. The baptism in the Spirit is given to those who seek it by faith (Gal. 3:2–5). It is not to be struggled for, agonized about, begged for, tarried for, or bargained for.
2. It is a free gift of the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples to enable them to walk as He did (Luke 11:11–13).

Summary:	<p>There are two distinct baptisms in the Christian experience. Water baptism, in which a believer is immersed in water, symbolizes the death of the believer to sin and his resurrection to new life. In this public act, he identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.</p> <p>The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a baptism of water; nevertheless, the believer is just as surely immersed—not in water, but in the Holy Spirit. It is a separate experience from salvation and water baptism, and it is available to all believers.</p> <p>The two baptisms are landmarks on the new Christian’s journey. Water baptism identifies him with Christ, and Holy Spirit baptism endues him with the power to live out that identification. Both experiences are part of the foundational doctrine of our Christian faith.</p>
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Lesson 2b: The Resurrection of the Dead

Key Verse:	<p>“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead” (1 Cor. 15:20–21 NASB).</p>
Key Scriptures:	<p>John 5:19–30 Revelation 11:18 1 Corinthians 15:1–58 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 Romans 2:5–11; 6:1–14 Hebrews 6:1–2; 10:24–39 2 Peter 3:3–15 Matthew 24:1–51; 25:31–46</p>
Objective:	<p>The goal of this lesson is for the student to gain understanding concerning the resurrection of the dead.</p>
Introduction:	<p>What happens after a person dies has intrigued mankind throughout the ages. All religions attempt to explain the hereafter in one way or another. To some, endless cycles of reincarnation are the answer; others hold out the futile hope of achieving a state of nirvana as the ultimate goal. Still others speak of a heaven that can be attained only through good works. The ideas and concepts of the afterlife are many.</p> <p>For Christians, a clear understanding of what the Bible says transpires after death is essential; otherwise, our life in Christ on the earth is useless. As Paul said, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (1 Cor. 15:19 NKJV).</p> <p>Christian belief in the afterlife is based on two main ideas: the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. In this lesson, we will study the resurrection of the dead.</p>

I. The resurrection of the dead is a basic doctrine of the Christian faith.

- The word *resurrection* means, “raising up,” or “rising up.” In its verb form, it means, “to cause to stand up or rise,” “to raise up,” or “to raise from sleep and from the dead.” Heb. 12:2
- The resurrection of the dead has two distinct aspects.
 1. The Bible gives clear teaching that the defeat of _____ and the triumph of _____ are vital components of our faith.

II. The Bible records numerous examples of resurrection.

- **The Old Testament includes three accounts of resurrection.**

1. the widow of Zarephath 1 Kings 17:17–24
2. the Shunammite's son 2 Kings 4:32–35
3. the man on Elisha's grave 2 Kings 13:21
4. God has power over the grave and can bring someone back from the dead, if He so chooses.

- **In the Old Testament, there are also two examples of men who never experienced death. They left this earth and went directly into the presence of God. They are Old Testament types of the rapture of the New Testament saints of God.**

1. Enoch was taken up to heaven (Gen. 5:24).
2. Elijah was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11–12).

- **The New Testament also records several accounts of resurrection.**

1. Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:35–43),
2. the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11–17)
3. Lazarus (John 11:1–45).
4. The apostle Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36–42).
5. The apostle Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:9–12).

III. There are four main aspects of the resurrection of the dead.

- **The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central proclamation of the Christian faith (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:36–53; Acts 1:3). What does the resurrection of Jesus declare?**

1. Jesus Christ is supreme over all created things (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:17–23).

2. Future judgment is assured (Acts 17:31).
3. Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).
4. Believers are justified (Rom. 4:25).
5. Death is defeated (Rom. 6:8–9).
6. Jesus reigns as High Priest on the throne of God (Heb. 10:12).
7. There is a “new birth into a living hope” (1 Pet. 1:3 NIV).

- **The spiritual resurrection of the believer in Jesus Christ is assured (2 Cor. 5:14–17; Gal. 2:19–20; Col. 2:12).**

1. A new life is manifested (Rom. 6:4).
2. A new attitude to life is established and maintained (Rom. 6:11).
3. A new master is obeyed (2 Cor. 5:15).
4. A new life purpose is embraced (Col. 3:1–4).

- **In addition to spiritual resurrection, there will be a future physical resurrection. John 6:39–54; 11:23–24, 1 Cor. 15:20–23**

- **Believers will experience a glorious resurrection.**

1. They will be raised to eternal life (Dan. 12:2–3).
2. They will have bodies like Christ’s glorious body (Rom. 6:5; Phil. 3:20–21).
3. They will have bodies according to the will of God (1 Cor. 15:38).
4. They will have imperishable bodies (1 Cor. 15:42).
5. Their bodies will be raised in glory (1 Cor. 15:43a).
6. Their bodies will be powerful bodies (1 Cor. 15:43b).
7. Their natural bodies will become spiritual bodies (1 Cor. 15:44).

8. They will be glorified with Christ (Col. 3:4; John 17:24).
9. They will see the face of God (Ps. 17:15).

Summary:	The hope of the resurrection is central to Christianity. Because Christ rose from the dead, we, too, will one day receive eternal bodies that will never die. The resurrection power of Christ at work in our hearts ensures not only spiritual resurrection, but also an eventual physical resurrection. This is our hope, and this is our belief.
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Questions and Discussion Points

1. How did Jesus' knowledge of eternity make a difference in His earthly life?

2. Do you have any evidence of spiritual resurrection in your own life?

3. What difference should it make to your earthly life when you realize that you are going to be resurrected and live for eternity?

Lesson 2c: Eternal Judgment

Key Verse:	“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds” (Rev. 20:12 NASB).
Key Scriptures:	Malachi 4:5 Romans 2:5; 14:10–12 2 Peter 3:7 Revelation 6:16–17; 21:8 Acts 17:30–31 Isaiah 2:19; 45:23–24 Luke 16:19–31 Hebrews 10:31 1 Corinthians 3:10–15
Objective:	The goal of this lesson is for the student to gain understanding concerning the two main aspects of the doctrine of eternal judgment.
Introduction:	<p>Christian belief in the afterlife is based on two main ideas: the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. The resurrection of the dead was discussed in the previous lesson, and this lesson will deal with the topic of eternal judgment.</p> <p>The doctrine of eternal judgment includes two primary aspects. One deals with the judgment of those who die in their sins, and the other deals with the judgment of the believer. We will all stand before God after our death and be judged on one of those two bases. To those who die without Christ, eternal damnation awaits, but to those who die in Him, eternal reward is certain.</p>

I. Eternal judgment awaits everyone.

- **Eternal judgment includes two aspects: _____ and _____.** Rev. 21:1, 4, 23

- **The verb *to judge* has many meanings.**
 1. It can mean, “to separate,” “to make a distinction between,” “to exercise judgment upon,” “to estimate,” “to call to account,” or “to bring under question.”
 2. It also means, “to judge judiciously,” “to try as a judge,” “to bring to trial,” “to sentence,” “to be brought to account,” “to administer government over,” or “to govern.”

- In the Bible, eternal judgment is referred to in several different ways.
- Eternal judgment brings horrible consequences to unbelievers.

II. Jesus is the judge of the final judgment.

- The Scriptures speak often of Jesus as judge. John 5:22
- Jesus is uniquely qualified to judge. John 5:26–27, 1 Tim. 2:5
- An interesting note is the fact that believers will play a role in judging the world and the angels (1 Cor. 6:1–3).

III. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10–12).

- We must give an account for the things done in the body.
 1. It is an individual accounting
 2. We will stand before Christ, who will be our judge.
 3. We will answer for what we have done in the body.
- Those in Christ will receive rewards (1 Cor. 3:10–15).
 1. Rewards for leading many to righteousness (Dan. 12:3)
 2. Crowns that will last forever (1 Cor. 9:24–2)
 3. Crowns of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7–8)
 4. Crowns of life (James 1:12)
 5. Crowns of glory (1 Pet. 5:1–4)

Summary:	The belief in eternal judgment is central to our faith. Although it may not be a popular thought, there is indeed a place called heaven and a place called hell. Everyone will spend eternity in one of these two places, based upon the acceptance or rejection of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
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	Belief in the resurrection gives us hope, and eternal judgment is quite sobering, but the two beliefs together encourage and enable us to live with our eyes on eternity.
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Questions and Discussion Points

1. If you are going to be held accountable for all you do on earth, how should this make a difference in the way you live?
2. Should you work for the Lord only because you are going to receive a reward?
3. If deeds and motives are going to be revealed on Judgment Day, then why do most Christians still wear masks to hide their true selves?
4. Do you believe you will receive any crowns in heaven? Why or why not?
5. How should you live your life, according to Matthew 24:36–51?