

# ***“You Shall Be My Witnesses”***

*The Continuing Work of Jesus in Building  
His Church*

**An Exposition of Acts**

# ***BAPTISM***

*The Significance and Symbolism of Water  
Baptism*

*An Excursus on Acts 2:38*

# Baptism in Acts:

- **8:12-13** – Samaritans
- **8:36-38** – Ethiopian Eunuch
- **9:18** – Saul (Paul)
- **10:47-48** – Cornelius and other Gentiles
- **16:15** – Lydia and her household
- **16:33** – Philippian jailer and his household
- **18:8** – Crispus and many Corinthians
- **19:5** – followers of John in Ephesus

# Baptism

## Meaning of the Word

### 1. *bapto; baptidzo; baptisma*

- ❑ To dip, submerge, immerse
- ❑ “baptism” is a transliteration
  - A technical expression for the rite of Christian initiation by water

# Baptism

## Meaning of the Word

### 2. Dual Implication

- A. Primary – signifies “identification” or union
- B. Secondary – water signifies cleansing and purification

# Baptism

## History of Baptism

### 1. Gentile proselytes to Judaism

- Renounced their former life, cleansed from defilement, and identified with the true God and His people

# Baptism

## History of Baptism

### 2. Baptism of John

- Sign of repentance and cleansing
- For Jews – identification with the “true” Israel, not based on physical descent



# Baptism

## History of Baptism

### 3. Jesus' Command

- ❑ Water still retains the inherent symbol of repentance and cleansing
- ❑ Identification – “in the name of...”; or the name of “Jesus”
  - *Signifies our union with Christ*



# Baptism

## Union with Christ

*Romans 6:3-4*

### 1. Paul's Use of "Baptism"

- ❑ Refers to the "conversion experience" that unifies us to Christ ("through")
- ❑ Baptism best symbolizes this union

*He attaches no symbolic significance to the movements within the act of baptism*

# Baptism

## Union with Christ

*Romans 6:3-4*

### 2. United with what?

- ❑ With Christ's death and burial; His death is very much our death
- ❑ With His resurrection

*Result:* we are not to continue in sin but walk in newness of life