

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* 2 Timothy 3:16

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## HOW MANY BAPTISMS ARE THERE?

There are a number of baptisms mentioned in the Scriptures. The Hebrew writer mentions "**the doctrine of baptisms.**" (See Heb. 6:1). Note the fact that "**baptisms**" is plural. Let us consider different baptisms that are mentioned in the New Testament Scriptures. There are at least six.

**I. BAPTISM UNTO MOSES.** In 1 Cor. 10:1-2 Paul made note of the fact that **all** the Israelites who passed through the sea "**were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.**"

**II. BAPTISM OF JOHN.** The baptism of John is mentioned a number of times in the Scriptures. Here are some of the passages; Matthew 3:1-12; Mk. 1:1-8; Luke 3:3-17; Matthew 21:23-27 and Acts 19:1-7. John baptized "**with**" and "**in**" water. He baptized where there was "**much water.**" (Cf. John 3:23). John's baptism was "**for the remission of sins.**"

**III. BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Both John and Jesus Christ mentioned Holy Spirit baptism. (See Matthew 3:10-12; Mk. 1:7-8; Lk. 3:16-17; John 1:30-34 and Acts 1:1-8). John promised Holy Spirit baptism to **some** people of his generation. His

promise did not extend beyond that generation. Jesus Christ was the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism. It was limited and temporary.

**IV. BAPTISM OF SUFFERING.** This baptism is referred to in Matthew 20:22-23; Mk. 10:38-40 and Lk. 12:50.

**V. BAPTISM OF FIRE.** This baptism is mentioned in Matthew 3:11 and in Luke 3:16. In view of the general context as well as the immediate one, it seems to me that this probably refers to the wicked being cast into hell.

**VI. BAPTISM OF GREAT COMMISSION.** This is the baptism that Jesus mentioned when he commissioned his disciples to go and teach all nations. (See Matthew 28:18-20 and Mk. 16:15-16). This baptism would be administered by the disciples in water **for the remission of sins.**" (See Acts 2:38). It is a baptism that puts penitent believers **INTO** Christ! (See Gal. 3:26-27).

From the above Scriptures we can see that at least six baptism are mentioned in the Scriptures. The baptisms served (or will serve)

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### *Editorial . . .*

## KEEPING OURSELVES

In 1 Timothy 5:22 Paul admonished his "son in the faith" saying: ". . . **Keep thyself pure.**" In 1 Tim. 4:16 Paul also exhorted Timothy saying: "**Take heed unto thyself . . .**" Paul wrote certain things to Timothy that he might "**know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, . . .**" (1 Tim. 3:14-15). Titus was exhorted to show himself "**a pattern of good works**" in "**all things.**" (2:7) We are to be spiritual. To remain spiritual we must "**keep ourselves.**"

**Keeping ourselves is a serious responsibility. It is a "big job!"** There are many things to do in "**keeping ourselves.**" Let us consider some of the things we should do.

**I. WE SHOULD KEEP OURSELVES OUT OF OTHER MEN'S MATTERS!** Peter said: "**But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil-doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.**" (1 Peter 4:15). In 2 Thess. 3:11 Paul said: "**For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.**" One who does not work but is a busybody is guilty of walking disorderly.

We have enough to keep us busy

in doing our own business. Paul said: "**. . . but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.**" (1 Thess. 4:10-11).

Many people are "nosey." They busy themselves with "other men's matters" and thus become "**busybodies.**" This is sinful! We are to **keep ourselves** out of other men's matters!

## II. WE SHOULD KEEP OURSELVES FROM IDOLS!

**John exhorted: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."** (1 John 5:21) In 1 Cor. 10:14 Paul said: "**Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.**" One of the ten commandments given to the Israelites was: "**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**" (Exodus 20:3).

Excessive love or veneration for a thing may constitute idolatry. There are many forms of idolatry. Here are some of them:

1. Images. (Consider Exo. 20:4-5).
2. Hero worship. (Consider Acts 10:26 and Acts 14:8-18.)
3. Pleasure worship. (Consider 1 Cor. 10:7 and 2 Tim. 3:4).
4. Mammon worship or covetousness. (Consider Col. 3:5 and Mt. 6:24).
5. Self worship. (Consider Phil. 3:19).

Idolatry is sinful! We should **keep ourselves** from idols and from things offered to idols! (Cf. Acts 21:25).

## III. WE SHOULD KEEP OURSELVES UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD!

Jesus told His disciples that they were "**not of the world**" but that he had chosen them "**out of the world.**" (Cf. John 15:19). The world would hate them because they were NOT "**of the world.**"

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# KEEPING OURSELVES

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*In discussing religion James declared that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."* (1:27) In order to practice pure religion it is imperative that we keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

John said: "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.**" (1 John 2:15). He then mentions that "**the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world.**" In Rom. 12:2 Paul urges: "**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, . . .**" (Rom. 12:2).

We are NOT Keeping ourselves unspotted from the world when we practice any of the following things.

1 **Drinking intoxicants, including social drinking.** (Cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Peter 4:3.)

2. **Wearing immodest dress.** (Cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21.)

3. **Cursing.** (Cf. James 3:9-10.)

4. **Dancing** (Cf. "Wantonness" in Rom. 13:13 and "lasciviousness" and "and such like" in Gal. 5:19-21.)

5. **Lying.** (Cf. Col. 3:9 & Rev. 21:8.)

6. **Stealing.** (Cf. Eph. 4:28).

7. **Swearing.** (Cf. Matt. 5:33-37 and James 5:12.)

8. **Cheating.** (Cf. 2 Cor. 8:21 and Romans 12:17).

9. **Bankruptcy.** (Cf. Luke 6:31; Psa. 37:21 and Rom. 12:17).

10. **Smoking, chewing or dipping tobacco.** (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:12; 1 Cor. 6:19-20 & 1 Tim. 4:12).

11. **Witchcraft.** (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21).

12. **Gambling.** (Cf. Luke 6:31; Rom. 12:17 and Gal. 5:19-21).

13. "**And such like.**" (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21).

A spotted soul not only endangers one's spiritual well being, but it also gives the enemies of truth and righteousness an occasion to blaspheme. (Cf. 2 Sam. 12:14 & Titus 2:3-5).

## IV. WE SHOULD KEEP OUR BODIES IN SUBJECTION!

Paul said: "**But I keep under my, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**" (1 Cor. 9:27).

We should glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are God's. (See 1 Cor. 6:19-20). To do this we must **crucify** the works of the flesh and **abstain** from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. (See Col. 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:11; Gal. 5:19-21 and 2 Cor. 7:1).

## V. WE SHOULD KEEP OUR MOUTHS WITH A BRIDLE!

The Psalmist said: "**I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.**" (39:1). We learn from Prov. 18:21 that "**Death and life are in the power of the tongue: . . .**" and from Prov. 21:23 that "**Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.**"

We should keep our mouths with a bridle lest we: (1) Speak filthy words (Cf. Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29), (2) Lie (Cf. Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8), (3) Teach error (Cf. 2 John 9-11; 1 Pet. 4:11), (4) Blaspheme, gossip, backbite, slander, etc. or (5) Speak hastily (Cf. James 1:19; Prov. 18:13).

We should keep our mouths with a bridle because by our words we can be justified and by our words we can be condemned (Matt. 12:36-37).

## V. WE SHOULD KEEP OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE!

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**“Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life.”** (Prov. 4:23).

Our lives are the products of our thinking. We must think right in order to live right. Our hearts think, trust, reason and believe. It is from the heart that we must obey God.

In order to keep ourselves out of other men's matters, from idols and unspotted from the world we **must keep our hearts with all diligence!** In order to keep our bodies and to keep our mouths with a bridle it is **essential that we keep our hearts with all diligence!**

In keeping our hearts with all diligence we will keep ourselves from murder, adultery, stealing, lying,

## HOW MAY BAPTISMS ARE THERE?

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different purposes. They were given for different reasons. However, by the time the apostle Paul penned Eph. 4:5 (probably about A.D. 64) he declared that there is **“ONE baptism.”**

How many baptisms are there now? When we consider all that God has spoken on the subject in the New Testament we must conclude that **there is ONE baptism today!** How many baptisms do you believe are in effect today?

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indecenty, selfishness, malice, hypocrisy, greed, etc. (See Mark 7:20-23).

Are YOU keeping yourself as you should? (CRS)

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### — SENTENCE SERMONS —

Any religion that does not motivate a person to obey God is false.

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For God to be with us we must abide in Christ!

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Freedom from sin does not mean free to sin.

\* \* \* \*

While most people seek to please men, true Christians seek to please God.

\* \* \* \*

Without God all men, in reality, are failures.

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