

## AFTER BAPTISM, WHAT THEN?

### Introduction

- 1) Baptism is a very important act of obedience – when baptized, one is...
  - a) Born again to enter the kingdom of God (Jn. 3:5)
  - b) Clothed with Christ to live for Him (Gal. 3:27)
  - c) Forgiven of past sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
  - d) Buried and raised to a new life (Rom. 6:4)
- 2) Baptism is essential to being saved from sin and being washed in Christ
- 3) But, after baptism, what then?

### **I) I Will Not Continue in Sin**

- A) I have been raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4)
- B) Will not continue in worldly, sinful lifestyles (Rom. 6:1-2, 12-13; Col. 3:1-10)
- C) Now have new friends, habits, activities, plans, and thoughts

### **II) I Will Not Be a Part of Religious Division and Follow Man**

- A) I have been baptized into Christ, not in the name of men (1 Cor. 1:13-16; 1 Pet. 4:16)
- B) I must love Christ first, be a Christian only, bring others to Jesus and His one true church, have no denominational affiliations or names

### **III) I Will Work with and Support Other Members**

- A) I have been unified with them in one body (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41-42; 16:15, 33-34; Eph. 4:1-3)
- B) Assemble together for worship (Heb. 10:24-25); put first things first, work together, no prejudice

### **IV) I Will Not Follow Human Philosophies, Traditions, and Doctrines**

- A) I have been circumcised with the circumcision of Christ (Col. 2:12, 18-22)
- B) Read and follow the New Testament only, Christ's word is all I need

### **V) I Will Grow and Press on to Maturity**

- A) I have been baptized and am at a starting point, not the end (Heb. 6:1-2)
- B) As a new babe in Christ, I am at a critical stage and need to grow in God's world, add to my faith, and eventually teach God's word (friend, parent, instructor) (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-8)

### **VI) I will Suffer for Christ and for Righteousness**

- A) I have been separated from my old life of acceptance in the world (1 Pet. 3:21; 4:1-4, 12-13)
- B) I will gladly endure ridicule, remain faithful, and not fall away to Satan (1 Pet. 5:8-9)

### Conclusion

Whether you are a new Christian or have been a Christian for a long time, you should look carefully at where you are and where you should be as a growing and active Christian. How far have you come after being baptized into Christ? That was your starting point – are you where you need to be today? Are you preparing for eternal life? Obey God today!