

# Christian Baptism

**Key Verse: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**  
—Matthew 28:19

**Selected Scriptures:**  
**Matthew 3:13-17;**  
**28:18-20**

12:1,2; Rev. 2:10

Immediately after Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, "the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like as dove, and lighting upon him." (Matt. 3:16) Thus our Lord was anointed with the spirit, fully establishing his authority to give his life as a ransom for Adam and all mankind. (I Tim. 2:5,6) There was audible confirmation by God that he was pleased that his beloved Son willingly embarked upon this course of laying down his life in order to purchase the dying race. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."—Matt. 3:17

After proving faithful unto death in his earthly ministry, Christ was resurrected and exalted to the divine nature. (Phil. 2:9,10) Although he would no longer be

**Christian baptism is the** means by which one makes a public profession of faith and discipleship. In adhering to Christ's example during his First Advent, such individuals generally symbolize their commitment publicly through water immersion. Giving such a witness implies their commitment to know and to do the Heavenly Father's will, whatever it may be, even unto death.—Rom.

physically present in their midst, he desired to give his disciples assurance that he would continue to strengthen them. Prior to his ascension into heaven, we read his parting words: “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”—Matt. 28:16-18

The following is an inspiring promise which addresses the grand reward to be attained by all Christ’s obedient and faithful members of his body, those who have been “baptized into his death.” (Rom. 6:3-5) “I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, ... and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”—Rev. 14:1-4

May the urgency of the moment bring renewed vigor to appreciate and apply in our lives those principles that will enable us to echo the words of one of our illustrious forerunners, the Apostle Paul. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”—II Tim. 4:7,8 ■