



### *Start Forever Now!*

We have all sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. We are all sinners and the wages of sin are death. We need to start over. We need forgiveness. Once forgiven, we can start to live forever now. We become new creatures, the old has passed away all things are new. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; I John 1:9-2:1; II Corinthians 5:17, 18.

- I. How does one start over? How does one bury the past? How does one start to live forever now?
  - a. Baptism symbolizes starting over. It is the Bible way to connect to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is almost like a marriage ceremony. Romans 6:3-8; Hosea 2:19-20; Galatians 2:20.
  - b. Baptism is the process of burying the past. It is a rebirth experience. John 3:1-16
  - c. Through baptism we become part of God's family. I John 3:1
  - d. Is baptism by water enough? No. Man must also live according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. John 3:5
- II. There are many forms of baptism that churches teach today. There is pouring, sprinkling, christening, immersing and others. What does the Bible teach?
  - a. The Bible recognizes one form of baptism. Ephesians 4:5
  - b. What form does it recognize? Immersion. Colossians 2:12
    - i. The Greek word for baptism is baptizo'. It means to immerse.
    - ii. John baptized in the Jordan River because there was plenty of water. John 3:23.
    - iii. Jesus was baptized by immersion in the Jordan River. He is our example. Matthew 3:13,16
    - iv. Philip baptized the eunuch by immersion. Acts 8:35-39

- III. When should a person be baptized?
  - a. When a person has accepted Jesus as Savior and has been taught the gospel. Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:19
  - b. Is it safe to put off being baptized? No. Acts 22:16; Acts 9:18; Acts 8:36
- IV. Is there preparation to be done before baptism? Yes!
  - a. One needs have accepted Christ. Romans 6:3
  - b. One needs to repent before baptism. Acts 2:38
  - c. One knows what to repent of only after he has been taught the teachings of Christ and the Holy Spirit has convicted of sin. Matthew 28:20; John 16:7,8,9
- V. Should a person ever be rebaptised?
  - a. When one receives new information rebaptism is appropriate. Acts 19:1-5
  - b. When one has fallen away and needs to return.
- VI. Now is the time. I Corinthians 6:1, 2