

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

One Baptism

Eph. 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

There are at least seven and perhaps more baptisms taught in the scriptures. Yet the above verses say there is one baptism. The context is such that it appears to pertain to the Kingdom of God and the things pertaining to the local church. That being the case then the "one baptism" would be water baptism of the individual entering into God's church kingdom on earth.

Since over the ages there have been multitudes that have been baptized with water baptism, then how can we properly think of baptism as "one baptism?" Every one who has entered into the Kingdom of God on earth have entered the same way. They came through belief of the gospel, repentance and water baptism.

Just as the one faith speaks to us of the one true gospel, government, and practice of the Lord's church, so water baptism speaks to us of the one true entrance to the Lord's gospel kingdom. Baptism shows forth the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Water baptism also shows forth the desire of the one entering the church to turn from the former walk of life to walk in newness of life. This one mode of entering into the Lord's church is the same for each of God's people who have come into membership in His church since John was baptizing at the river Jordan. The Lord, himself, set forth the example for us as he was baptized of John.