

#16

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Do you remember when we studied about Adam? He was our great- great- great grandfather. Because he separated from God, his whole nature changed from being holy to being sinful. Because of Adam, we are all now born sinful and selfish and we can't change ourselves into being good. Only God can take care of this problem for us if we allow Him. Only those who accept God's gift of salvation and are "baptized into Christ" will be God's special children.

The word, "baptize" is mentioned 97 times in the Bible. That shows us how important this is to God. In this lesson, we will learn what it means to be baptized.

1. How important is baptism? (*Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:3-5*)

2. What is the meaning of baptism? (*Romans 6:3-5; Col.2: 12*)

Note: When we are baptized, we are showing that we are no longer in control of our lives but have given all control of our life to God. It means that we are now "dead to self" and "alive with Christ". Think about the act of baptism. First, we are lowered into the water just like someone who has died is being lowered into the ground. Then, we are raised into a new life with Christ just as the dead are raised when Jesus comes back for us. Not only is it like a funeral service for our old life, but it also is now a special celebration of our new life in Christ.

2.

3. Who is first mentioned as baptizing in the New Testament?
(*Matt. 3:1-6*)

4. Why was John the Baptist baptizing in the wilderness? (*John 3:23*)

5. Why did Jesus say He needed to be baptized? (*Matt: 3: 13-17*)

Note: Jesus was sinless and holy. He did not have to ask forgiveness for any sin that He committed, but He did it to set a positive example for us. He took the steps that we need to take in order to show a special symbol of our love and obedience to God. We want to be baptized in the same way that Jesus was.

6. Was the Father pleased when His Son, our Lord Jesus, was baptized?
(*Mark 1:11*) _____

Note: Yes, the Father was very pleased when Jesus was baptized and He will also be very pleased at your baptism.

7. What did Jesus tell His followers to do before they baptized people? (*Matt. 28:19, 20*) _____

Note: Before we are baptized we need to know what it means to be baptized. We need special Bible studies to be “disciple” or taught how to be live as true Christians.

3.

8. How was it that people became members in God's church?
(Acts 2:41)

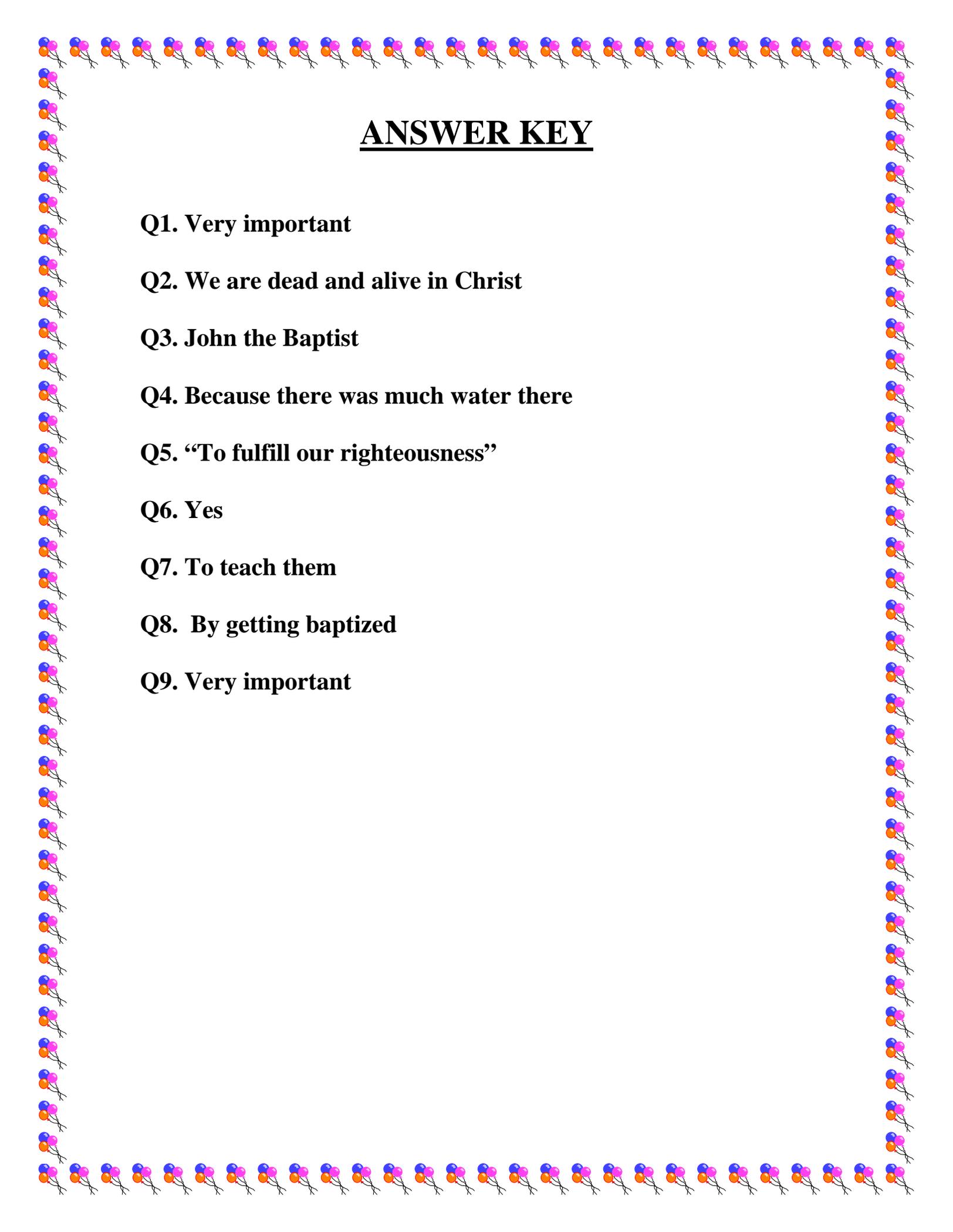
Note: When you are baptized, you are joining God's Seventh-day Adventist Church. Not only are you showing that you have given your life to Christ, but also that you are now a member of the church.

9. How important is a public confession of our faith to God?
(Matt. 10:32, 33)

Conclusion: *In this life we need to die! The only choice we have is how. Either we die to ourselves and become alive again in Christ through baptism or we die as a sinner in Adam. By dying in our place at Calvary, Jesus made a public statement of His love for us. We need to make a public statement of our love for God through baptism.*

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for dying for me. Now I want to live for you. I want to be baptized and have a special friendship with you that will last forever.

Your friend,



ANSWER KEY

Q1. Very important

Q2. We are dead and alive in Christ

Q3. John the Baptist

Q4. Because there was much water there

Q5. “To fulfill our righteousness”

Q6. Yes

Q7. To teach them

Q8. By getting baptized

Q9. Very important