

## INTERPRETING 7 MISUSED PASSAGES ABOUT WATER BAPTISM Pt. 1

### I. SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS

- A. What is a “*misused passage*”? A *misused passage* is a verse or portion of Scripture that is \_\_\_\_\_ to make water baptism a necessary condition for salvation.
- B. What *three rules of biblical interpretation* must we remember while considering these *misused passages*?
1. The priority of interpreting a verse in its \_\_\_\_\_ as the author intended.

### The Concentric Circles of Context



2. The Bible correctly understood never \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
3. The Bible is the best \_\_\_\_\_ of itself.

### David L Cooper's Golden Rule Of Interpretation

**“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”**

I call this the “normal, historical, grammatical, contextual method of biblical interpretation” that needs to be consistently applied to all parts of Scripture, including the prophetic passages.

C. What is the *process* of biblical interpretation? It involves ...

1. Examining carefully the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Observing accurately its \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture with Scripture.
4. Arriving at a biblical and reasonable \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. SEVEN MISUSED PASSAGES ON 'WATER BAPTISM' EXAMINED

A. MARK 16:16 - *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

1. Examining the context:

2. Observing the content:

- *“he who believes and is baptized will be saved”*
- *“But he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

3. Comparing Scripture with Scripture:

- Acts 16:31
- John 3:18; 5:24
- Matthew 28:18-20

4. The textual consideration:

5. The conclusion: Jesus Christ wants believers to proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone. Salvation is through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ alone and believer's baptism is an anticipated and normal means of public \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ after believing the Gospel.

B. JOHN 3:5 - *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

1. Examining the context:

2. Observing the content:

- *“born of water and the Spirit”*
- *“he cannot enter the kingdom of God”*
- *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*
- *“Do not marvel that I said to you, `You must be born again.’”*

**3. Comparing Scripture with Scripture:**

- **John 3:14-18**

**4. The conclusion: “Born of water” refers to a \_\_\_\_\_ birth from \_\_\_\_ in contrast to physical birth and is absolutely necessary to see and enter the kingdom of God.**

**C. ACTS 2:38 - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

**1. Examining the context:**

- **When?**
- **Where?**
- **Who?**
- **What?**
- **Why?**

**2. Observing the content:**

- ***“Repent”***
- ***“be baptized”***
- ***“in the name of Jesus Christ”***
- ***“for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”***

**4. Comparing Scripture with Scripture:**

- **Luke 24:44-49**
- **Acts 2:41, 44**
- **Acts 10:43-48**
- **Acts 20:21**

**5. The conclusion: Acts 2:38 is not requiring 2 conditions to receive the remission of sins and the Holy Spirit but only 1 condition – to \_\_\_\_\_ so as to rest by faith in Christ alone. Water baptism appropriately \_\_\_\_\_ salvation as a public testimony and identification with Jesus Christ.**