

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

134 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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## THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT – LESSON 27 BECAUSE IT TEACHES & ADMINISTERS SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM – PART 2

### Testimony From Well Known Sources

1. **The Greek Catholic Church** testifies that immersion was the original practice, and continues to practice immersion.
2. **The Church Of England** admits that immersion was the original practice.
3. **The Methodist Church** approves of immersion and immerses those who request it.
4. **Webster's Dictionary** "*To dip or immerse in water, or to pour or sprinkle water upon.*" Brownlow says, "*There is nothing surprising about this, because it is the function of a dictionary to give the present-day usage of words.*" He adds, "*If men should begin to put their feet in water and call that baptism, the dictionary would give that as one of the meanings, too.*" We are not concerned about what folks accept today. We are interested only in what Jesus and the apostles taught and practiced – according to the Holy Scriptures.

### Origin Of Anti-Scriptural Baptism

5. **The First Recorded Case** Novation (251 AD) lay sick in bed. They "poured" water on him and called it baptism. This method of "pouring" is properly called *affusion*. Later, it became common practice. Is there such an example in the NT? \_\_\_\_ May we *change* what the Bible commands?
6. **The Testimony Of Karl Hefele** He was a learned Roman Catholic bishop. "*The church has always been tender toward the sick; and for that reason she introduced 'clinical' baptism.*" History of Church Councils, Page 153. What church was Bishop Hefele talking about? \_\_\_\_ Does any church have the right to *change* God's Word? \_\_\_\_ Why not?
7. **The Legalization Of Sprinkling** "*The Council of Ravenna, 1311, legalized the baptism of sprinkling, but the practice of 'clinical' or bedside baptism had long been in use and had spread from the sick room to the churches.*" Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia, Vol. 1, Page 488. Is 1311 AD far enough back in time for us to also find such practice in the NT? \_\_\_\_ The Church of Rome gave us sprinkling and pouring as a substitution for immersion, not the New Testament.
8. **Power On High** Jesus told the disciples they would (Lk 24:49), "*be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.*" God's thoughts and ways are higher than any man's (Isa 55:8-9). Paul said (Rom 13:1), "*For there is \_\_\_\_\_ but of God.*" Ultimate power resides with God Almighty. No man, or man-made institution, can legislate for God. Isn't it amazing how quickly false precepts become accepted as biblical fact? \_\_\_\_

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