

Baptism in the Name of Jesus

Baptism, which was originally done in water by immersion, was eventually changed into the sprinkling and pouring of water. This custom has been promoted by the Catholic Church for hundreds of years. Even the protestant churches that came out of the Catholic church continue to sprinkle candidates for salvation. For example Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Methodist churches have sprinkled converts for over a hundred years, many of those churches for hundreds of years.

Baptism is even left out of many church's doctrines and ordinances. But, thank God, there are many churches today that have recognized and restored baptism by immersion to its original practice. Baptist, Pentecostal, and Apostolic churches have been baptizing by immersion since their inception. But these churches all have different interpretations of the meaning or purpose of baptism. Some say baptism is an outward testimony of an inward work and it is not necessary for salvation. Some baptize repeating Matthew 28:19, saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Some teach that baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation because it washes away sin and puts one into the body of Christ. Some baptize repeating the formula given by Peter on the Day of Pentecost, "I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

What does the Bible teach?

First of all, many things that are said in the Bible are said as a parable or riddle. For example, the Bible states that everything that Jesus said was said as a parable. Matthew 13:34. This was not done to make it easy to understand what Jesus was saying. Even Christ's own disciples did not understand the parables. The Bible states that a parable is a Dark Saying. In other words the truth is hidden in the words that are spoken. Jesus's own disciples even asked Him why he taught in parables. In response to this Jesus said unto them, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in **parables**:

That seeing they may see, **and not perceive**; and hearing they may hear, **and not understand**; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?"

This is exactly why there appears to be a discrepancy between what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and what Peter said in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." I've know preachers who have said that Peter made a mistake. I've heard others ask, "Who are you going to believe, Peter or Jesus?"

Obviously Peter and Jesus were on the same page. Jesus said he gave the Keys of the Kingdom to Peter and made him the chief Apostle. He said to Peter, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Jesus also said unto his disciples, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." It was Peter who stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached the first New Testament message. Peter was full of the Holy Ghost and most certainly did not start the Church with a glaring lie!

Jesus spoke in parables, but Jesus said to Peter, "it is given to you to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." If we could find a place in the Bible where Peter, or any other apostle, repeated, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," while baptizing someone then that formula would be fine. The problem is that the expression, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," is only found once in the entire Bible. Amazing! This is perhaps the most repeated verse in churches today, and it is only found once in the entire Bible.

Obviously Peter and the Apostles understood what Jesus was saying. Jesus was saying that they were to baptize in the authority of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and the only way they could do that was to use the **Name of Jesus**.

It is also quite possible that **Jesus** is the **Name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. We know that it is God's only saving name for this dispensation. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Acts 10:43, "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on **his name**."

Jesus said he came in his father's name (John 5:43). He said the Holy Ghost would come in his Name (John 14:26). The name Jesus, or Jehoshua (Hebrew), is a contraction of "Jehovah is salvation." In the book of Hebrews 1:4, it states, "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Jesus inherited his name from His Father just like I did. My last name is Marlowe, and it is my most important name. I inherited it from my father. God has many names and titles, but his Saving name is **JESUS**.

The Apostles and Ministers of Jesus knew this and that is why Peter, Phillip, and Paul always baptized in the name of Jesus. Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, and Acts 19:5. That is also why they never said, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." Ministers who don't baptize in the name JESUS for the remission of sins don't fear God. They don't have a revelation or understanding of one of the most important parables of Jesus Christ. Psalm 25:14, "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."