

Baptism by Water and Spirit

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on the true understanding of baptism. The first question you should ask yourself is: "how important is baptism?" In John Jesus explains this to Nicodemus. John 3:3-5

Verse 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Verse 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Verse 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

These scriptures tell us that without baptism we can not enter into the kingdom of God. The only exception to this that we are told of in the Bible is that of the thief on the cross, in Luke.

Luke 23:39-43

Verse 39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Verse 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Verse 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

Verse 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Verse 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. Jesus himself made the exception, so for our commitment to the faith it must be through baptism.

There is only one baptism, and the apostle Paul tells us this in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter four verse five: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," and only one way to perform it properly. One must be baptized in the name of Jesus, fully submerged and with hands laid on to receive the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us all of this. First, we will head to Acts where Paul talks about being baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 19:1-5

Verse 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Verse 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye Believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Verse 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Verse 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Verse 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Here we are told that John the Baptist, the forerunner for Christ, baptized these men. He baptized them into the baptism of repentance. So, they were not baptized in the name of Jesus, although everything else he did was correct. Now you might ask what Jesus meant in Matthew.

Matthew 28:19

Verse 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:

Here Jesus is speaking to his apostles to go out to teach and to baptize. Yet they only ever baptized in the name of Jesus. The reason is that Jesus says to baptize "in the name," this is singular. So what name is given all authority over God's creation?

John 3:35

Verse 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 5:22-23

Verse 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Verse 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the

Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Philippians 2:10

Verse 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Colossians 3:17

Verse 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

All things are done in the name of Jesus and we believe that the above scriptures help prove that baptism is to be done in the name of Jesus. Continuing to use John we find the need to also be fully submerged.

John 3:23

Verse 23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Matthew 3:16

Verse 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Acts 8:38-39

Verse 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Verse 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

If sprinkling was an accepted way to baptize then why would John require “much water” to baptize. The only reasonable answer is that one must be fully submerged. Remembering Paul’s discussion with John’s disciples, also in the name of Jesus.

Now for the laying on of hands, we find our proof with Philip.

Acts 8:12-17

Verse 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Verse 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Verse 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Verse 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Verse 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Verse 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

From this we can put it all together and know we need to be baptized in Jesus’ name, fully submerged and with the laying on of hands.

Baptism allows us entrance into the kingdom of God. Being baptized is a symbolic event as far as the physical flesh. We do not physically die; but God has accepted it as a spiritual act of dying. The sacrifice of his only begotten son has made it possible for all who enter into baptism to be saved.

Romans 6:4

Verse 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12-13

Verse 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Verse 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

These scriptures tell us how important it is to be baptized, so that we are buried with Christ and risen with him in the newness of life.

I Peter 3:21

Verse 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

II Corinthians 5:17

Verse 17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Ephesians 4:24

Verse 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Colossians 3:10

Verse 10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Our act in baptism is our commitment to God. It shows our believe in his son Jesus the Christ, and the grace that God the father has extended to all mankind through Jesus' sacrifice. Our desire to walk as a new person with a good conscience towards God. Know this that you are truly a new person and if you keep his commandments, not after the traditions and teachings of men, that you can have the same assuredness as Paul did about his salvation

II Timothy 4:7-8

Verse 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Verse 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Let us pray that we can all make this statement before our eyes close in final sleep before Jesus returns.

II Timothy 2:2-4

Verse 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Verse 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Verse 4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Acts 17:11

Verse 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

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