

The Foundations of Life, Part 9

The Doctrine of Baptisms

Matthew 28:19,20

*19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’**

(1. Make Disciples, 2. Baptize in the Name of. 3. Teach the Disciples to obey everything.)

Those who believe in Christ and the gospel are to be baptized. It is a command it is not an option for the believer. You must in order to obey everything and walk into the fullness of Salvation. Salvation is a process of God's redeeming love. First accepting us and applying the blood then cleansing us, and later filling us with His Power and Guiding us through His Word unto the full stature of Christ.

Upon examination, this word baptize proves to be a most unusual word. Actually it is not an English word at all. It is a Greek word, transliterated into letters of the English alphabet. If we write out the original Greek word in English letters, as accurately as it is possible to do, this gives us baptizo. Then, with the change of the final o to and e, we have the word in the form which has now become familiar – baptize.

This word baptizo comes from causative form of bapto. The simple root form of bapto occurs three times in the Greek text in the New Testament. It means to literally " to dip ".

Luke 16:24 talks about the rich man in the torments of hell fire Crying out.

" Father Abraham , have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. " (KJV)

In **John 13:26** at the Last Supper , Jesus identifies the traitor who is to betray him by this mark.

" It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it. " (KJV)

Finally in **Revelation 19:13**. Here John describes the Lord Jesus Christ as he sees Him coming in glory, leading the avenging armies of heaven.

"He was clothed with a robe dipped in Blood." (KJV)

In all three passages it talks about dipping from the compound bapto. The best definition I can give for the word bapto is; to dip something into a fluid and then take it out again.

Here are some Historical usages of the word baptizo in early Greek Language.

1. In the fifth or fourth century B. C. baptizo is used by Plato of a young man being " overwhelmed " by clever philosophical arguments.

2. In the writings of Hippocrates (attributed to the fourth century B.C) baptizo is used of people being "submerged" in water and of sponges being "dipped".

3. In the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament attributed to the second of first century B.C.) baptizo is used to translate the passage in **2 Kings 5:14** where Naaman "dipped himself" seven times in the Jordan.

4. Somewhere between 100 B.C. and 100 A.D. baptizo is used by Strabo to describe people who cannot swim being "submerged: beneath the surface of the water.

5. In the first century A.D. baptizo is used metaphorically by Josephus to describe a man "plunging" a sword into his own neck.

6. In the first or second century A.D. baptizo is used twice by Plutarch to describe either the body of a person or the figure of an idol being "immersed" in the sea.

In its New Testament meaning baptism involves the whole person in the biblical salvation process. One being baptized is a transitional passing from one realm into a new stage or realm or experience. Like an opening of one door and a closing of another.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Four different baptisms

1. John's baptism

Mark 1:4

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

2. Baptism of Suffering.

Luke 12:50

50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

Mark 10:38

38But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'

3. Christian Baptism.

Matthew 28:19

19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38

38Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:12,13

12But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

4. Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Baptism, not infilling like when you first believed)

Acts 1:5

5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'*

Acts 1:8

8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

John's Baptism Compared to Christian Baptism

Many Christians may not be clear as to the difference between the baptism of John the Baptist and Christian Baptism. Therefore it will be helpful to clarify this biblical distinction.

Acts 19:1-5

1While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.

2He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

3Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.'

4Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.'

5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The disciples of John had to receive a dual message. One, the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for you, and two you need to be re-baptized in the name of our Lord. This was because a new dispensation was in play. After the resurrection and the birth of the Early Church it was now recognized as essential to receive the Lord and to acknowledge Him as the Son of God. Plus, baptism wasn't a baptism of repentance only, but now an passing from death to life IN CHRIST. Through the power of His name as we honor the name of the father, son and holy spirit in relation to the saving Name of Jesus through the water's of baptism.

John's baptism was a preparation for the Saviour. Christian baptism is an reception into the Kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ. John's ministry prepared the hearts of the people of Israel for the advent or revelation of the long awaited Messiah. He also was the link or forerunner to the Saviour fulfilling the purposes of God. John's ministry was necessary but temporary.

Those whom John baptized did not receive abiding, inward peace and victory over sin, made possible only through the full gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Christian Baptism Fulfilled All Righteousness

Matthew 3:14

14 John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'

Jesus was baptised to fulfill all Righteousness. Christian baptism is necessary so we can receive His full Righteousness. Jesus was not baptized by John as the outward evidence or inward evidence of repentance unto salvation. On the contrary, as Jesus Himself explained. He was baptized in order that he might fulfill (or complete) all righteousness.

He was setting an example and pattern of the baptism in which He desired Christian believers to follow Him. Believers are not baptized merely because they are sinners who have confessed and repented of sin. Rather, they have passed beyond this into something much fuller and greater than ever possible for those who knew only the message of the baptism of John.

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

By faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been justified: God has imputed to us the righteousness of Christ Himself on the basis of our faith. However, we must fulfill or complete this act of Grace by our act of obedience and allow God to complete His work of inward righteousness within us. As through faith in the waters of baptism we are raised to newness of life. Old things passed away all things become new. The old man left in the water's of baptism so to speak. The new man risen unto Christ. Taking upon that adoptive name in the water's of baptism.

1 Peter 3:21

21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

Christian baptism is a dedication to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and to be His disciple. (**Mathew 28:19**). To be baptised you must do something practical. You must humble yourself. In Christian baptism you must identify yourself with Jesus Christ. As He dedicated himself "thus to fulfil all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15) so must you when you are baptised in water. You make a covenant with God to submit yourself to obey the Spirit of God to the point of death, dying to the deeds and lusts of the body and all that is old, to let the past be buried and to rise up to live to fulfill all righteousness - not through your old life but in the new life given by God. (Attributed to Dr. Veerman or staff)

One Baptism

Initiation into a Life of Growth

Baptism is a public initiation into a new life of growth within the community of the people of God, a life that should be a continuing progression:

1. from slavery to freedom,
2. from fear to boldness,
3. from death to life,
4. from darkness to life,
5. from selfishness to general love.