

Introduction

Water baptism is actually the third step in God's plan of salvation after the first step which is faith in Christ Jesus that He is the only wise God and the second step which is true repentance which leads to remission of sins.

The gospel

The gospel of Jesus Christ as the apostle Paul writes to the church of Corinth (I Corinthians 15:1-4), means the DEATH, BURIAL and RESSURECTION OF CHRIST JESUS. The apostle writes in (Galatians 2:20) "I am crucified with Christ..." every Christian must die , be buried and resurrect with Christ regardless of your self-righteousness in order to be saved (Colossians 2:20, 3:1-2, 1:7, 1Tim 2:11, Roman 1:16, 6:1-4, 2Corinthians 4:3-4).

These bible verses make it clear that TO DIE WITH CHRIST MEANS TO REPENT FROM YOUR SINFUL WAYS, TO BE BURIED SIMPLY MEANS TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER FOR THE REMMISSIONS OF YOUR SINS AND TO RESSURECT FROM DEATH MEANS TO LIVE IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE WITH THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Roman 6:1-6).

The role of baptism in our salvation.

Water baptism plays a vital role in our quest for eternal life. It can be concluded that without water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism (to be born again), one can never enter into the kingdom of God in this era of grace. Nicodemus asks the golden question for himself and for us all (John 3:3-5) "...HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN AGAIN". 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". Read also (Mark 16:15-16, 1Peter 3:19-21). Brethren, do not undermine these sayings of Jesus Christ, the almighty God.

The scriptural formula

1. Jesus commanded his disciples : "*go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the NAME of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost*" (Matthew 28:19-20). The name of the father is not father , the name of the son is not son and the name of the holy

ghost is not holy ghost. When the disciples were commanded they were asked to wait for the spirit of God to fill them (Acts 1:8).

The power of God was given to them and their understandings were opened (Luke 24:44-48). The Holy Spirit came upon them on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and they started to propagate the gospel from Jerusalem as said in (Luke 24:46-48). It is therefore clear that, in the NAME mentioned in (Matthew 28:19) is a single name which is JESUS CHRIST. The name of the Father is also of the Son and it is of the Holy Ghost also.

Father→JESUS (John 14:6-10, Isaiah 9:6)

Son→JESUS (Matthew 1:21-23, Luke 1:35)

Holy Ghost/spirit→JESUS (2Corinthians 3:17, 4:5, John 14:15-17)

2. Baptism was gotten from the Greek word BAPTIZO (to put deep into). Water baptism therefore is by immersion (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:36-39). Baptizing people by sprinkling, with sponge and soap, flags, caskets are all therefore blasphemy. There is but only one scriptural formula.

Points to note

- The father, son and Holy Ghost are titles and not personalities. They only show the manifestations of Jesus Christ, the almighty (1 Timothy 3:14-16)
- Water baptism is the third key after the first key (faith in Christ Jesus that He is the only creator of the universe) and the second key (repentance) and it is followed by the fourth key (Holy Spirit baptism) and the last key (holiness).
- Infants' baptism is not biblical, only adults can receive water baptism since they can repent. Children must never be baptized.

Scriptural examples

One should not forget that the command in (Matthew 28:19) was only for the apostles. The keys to the kingdom of heaven were given to Peter by the almighty God (Matthew 16:18, Acts 15:7). We should therefore go to Peter, follow his steps and do what he did

- The first and very first baptism by the apostles was in **Jerusalem** and it was done in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. (Acts 2:36-41)
- The first gentiles baptized in this church age (**Cornelius and his household**) was also in the NAME OF JESUS (Acts 10:44-48, 10:1-6, 34-35)
- The people of **Samaria** also received their water baptism in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST (Acts 8:14-16)
- The people of **Ephesus** were baptized in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST (Acts 19:1-5). Note that these people at Ephesus had by then been baptized by John the Baptist but they were again baptized since the first baptism could not have saved them. They had not received the correct one (Ephesians 4:5). Until you receive the correct water baptism as practiced by the apostles, you are never born again.

Significance of water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ

- When you are baptized in water in THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, you put on Christ as a robe (Galatians 3:27-29). This is more than any form of deliverance.
- 1 Corinthians 1:11-13 and Ephesians 1:7 also talk about baptism in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.
- Remember that, there is not even one scriptural example of baptism in the titles Father Son and Holy Ghost.
- Baptism in Jesus' name paves way for our circumcision in Christ (Genesis 17:9-14 → Colosians 2:11-12).
- It also makes the church the bride of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 2:21 → John 19:33-34, Revelation 9:6).
- The blood of Jesus has effect on us only when we are baptized in water in the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. (Acts 4; 17, 5:28)
- Baptism in Jesus Name is a **PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION** with Jesus Christ. His name identifies us as his possession (Acts 15:14, 17)
- Baptism in Jesus Name is a **RESEMBLANCE** of the Ark of Noah which also saves us (I Peter 3:19-21)

The big question

Is there any reference in the bible where even a single soul was baptized in titles *father, son and Holy Spirit*? If there is none why then do supposedly men of God baptize every blessed day in these titles and not in the **NAME of these titles** (Matthew 28:19)

Brethren, your unbelief can never make the faith of God without effect (Romans 3:3). Therefore, having understood, why tarries now arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16)

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