



THE TRUTH ABOUT WATER BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus, God shown to us in flesh, said, "If you love Me, you will do what I say" (John 14:15 NLT). This same Jesus tells us, "He who puts his trust in Me and is baptized will be saved from the punishment of sin" (Mark 16:16 NLT). If you love Jesus, you will do what He commands you to do and His Word commands you to be baptized in Jesus' Name. Those who do not obey will be punished for their sins.

When you repent of your sins and ask God to forgive you, you are dying out to your sins. After someone dies they need to be buried. After you die to sin, you need to be buried in baptism (Romans 6:4). When you obey God by being baptized in Jesus' Name, your old sins are washed away and God forgives you for all of your past sins.

HOW SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

Man has designed different ways to be baptized. Some sprinkle water on you, some pour the water on you, while others cover the whole body with water. Ephesians 4:5 tells us, "There is one Lord, and one faith, and one baptism." Which ONE of those ways is correct? Since the Bible is God's record of truth, the ONE used in the Bible would be correct. The way Jesus was baptized would be the ONE correct way.

The Bible says, "Jesus came up out of the water" when He was baptized (Matthew 3:16 NLT). God's Word also tells us we are buried when we are baptized. You do not sprinkle dirt or pour dirt on people when they are buried. Neither are you supposed to just sprinkle or pour water on them when they are baptized. The word baptism actually comes from a word that means to dip, plunge, or immerse. To be properly baptized you need to be completely covered with water.

Men not only have different ways of baptizing, but they have different words they say when baptizing. Since we know that there is only ONE BAPTISM, we understand that we should say the words that were used in the Bible when baptizing.

After the Church was born in Acts chapter 2, we have no record of anyone being baptized using any other words than some form of, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

On the Day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2, when the Church was born, Peter was the spokesman for the Apostles. Jesus had given him "...the keys of the holy nation of heaven" (Matthew 16:19 NLT). So when the people asked Peter how to be saved, he had God's authority to tell them. "Peter said to them, Be sorry for your sins and turn from them and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38 NLT). Three thousand people obeyed these words of salvation that day and were baptized.

Philip baptized the Samaritans in Acts 8 in Jesus' name. Paul called on the name of Jesus in his baptism. Peter baptized Cornelius, his

family, and friends, in Jesus' name in Acts chapter 10. Paul re-baptized the people in Acts chapter 19 after he found out they had not yet been baptized in Jesus' name.

"Whatever you say or do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17 NLT). "There is no way to be saved from the punishment of sin through anyone else. For there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we can be saved" (Acts 4:12 NLT). These two Scriptures emphasize the necessity of using the name of Jesus in baptism.

CONCLUSION:

God through His Word, the Bible, has commanded that you should be baptized. He has let you know that there is only one correct way to be baptized. He also has told you what that correct way is, by immersion in the name of Jesus.

In John 14:15 (NLT) Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will do what I say." Being obedient to God in baptism is a test of your love to God. If you do not obey and be baptized, you do not love Him. If you do not love Him you cannot be saved from the punishment of your sins. However, by showing your love for God by repenting and being baptized in Jesus' Name, your sins will be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38 NLT).

The Word of God says to you as Ananias said to Paul, "What are you waiting for? Get up! Be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on His name" (Acts 22:16 NLT).