

Chapter 4

The Doctrine of Baptisms

In the church world the doctrine and practice of baptism is one of the most misunderstood doctrines of the modern-day church. The word baptize means to immerse or to put beneath water (burial). Its symbol of use in the Old Testament is cleansing, typified by the brass laver of water before the tabernacle and temple. The purpose of baptism is clearly stated in Acts 2:38 when Peter instructed those gathered with him to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. The New Testament practice of baptism was always in a body of water to be entered into, and never implies a sprinkling of water from a dish, bowl or decanter. John 3:23 states that John's baptisms in Aenon was because there was "much water there".

When one has manifested Faith Toward God, their expectancy is to receive the remission of sins. (Col. 1:4 / Col. 2: 11-14). Baptism is commanded of God (Mark 16:16 / John 3:3-5 / Acts 2:38 / Matt. 28:19). Baptism has the effect of burial, where someone passes from one manner of life to another. We are buried in baptism as one that is dead to sin and are raised to walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:3-6 / 1 Cor. 15:29). It is a washing process to remove sin as noted in Acts 2:38.

Since the scripture speaks of the Doctrine of Baptisms, plural, there must be more than one baptism to be applied. There is a water baptism and a spirit baptism. In John 3:3-5 Jesus speaks of being born of water AND spirit without which one cannot see nor enter into the Kingdom of God. In Luke 3:16, John states that he baptized with water, but one coming after him will baptize with the "Holy Ghost and fire". (See Acts 1:5 where Jesus instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem until they be baptized with the Holy Ghost, the promise of the Father). To be baptized in water in the Name of Jesus and filled with the Holy Ghost constitutes the new birth and the two parts, water and spirit, make one baptism. Eph. 4:4-6 speaks of ONE LORD, ONE FAITH AND ONE BAPTISM, but this one baptism is in two parts as mentioned above. Note also Titus 3:5-6; the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

In John 3:25-26, there arose a question of purifying. The Jews had a number of washings (most of which they invented themselves) and accused the disciples of not washing before they ate. Purifying and washings were established in the law of Moses and was typical of washing to cleanse one of all impurities before serving in the tabernacle. See Num. 8:5-7, 21 where the Levites were to be sprinkled and washed to make themselves clean. Before Aaron and his sons could go into the sanctuary, they had to wash at the brazen laver of water standing before the tabernacle. More than washing was necessary for Aaron and his sons. They also had to be anointed with the Holy anointing oil before entering the tabernacle. If they did not, they were to die, symbolizing the necessity of our washing and cleansing by water baptism and anointing (filled) with the Holy Ghost before we can enter into our sanctuary, the church.

Baptism is a washing or cleansing:

- Exodus 29:4 Aaron and sons brought before the door of the tabernacle and washed.
- Exodus 30:17-21 The Laver for Aaron and sons to wash.
- Hebrew 9:9-14 The practice of the Law – washing and purification.
- Acts 22:16 Arise and be baptized, WASHING away thy sins.
- Titus 3:5 The washing of regeneration. (Regeneration: To be formed again, New Birth).
- I Corinthians 6:11 Now you are washed (by baptism), set free.

Old Testament sense of spiritual baptisms (washings)

- Psalm 26:6; 51:2,7 Wash from my iniquity, purge me with hyssop
- Isaiah 1:6 Wash you make you clean, put away the evil of your doings.
- Jeremiah 4:4 Wash thine heart from wickedness.
- Zechariah 13:1 A fountain opened for sin and uncleanness.
- Ezekiel 36:25 God to sprinkle clean water on you to be clean
- Leviticus 15:12 Washed from defilement (vs. 5-6).
- II Kings 5:10-14 Naaman, go wash.

General scripture on water baptism:

- Mark 1:4-5 John's baptism unto repentance
- Galatians 3:27 Baptized into Christ, have put Christ.
- I Corinthians 12:13 Baptized into ONE body.
- Romans 6:3-4 Baptized into Christ.
- I Peter 3:21 Baptism an answer of a good conscience.
- Ephesians 5:26 Washing of water by (according) to the word.
(See Hebrews 10:22)
- Acts 8:12-16, 36-37 When they BELIEVED the preaching of Philip, they were baptized.

There is a link between baptism and circumcision:

- Acts 2:38 Be baptized for remission of sin
 - Colossians 2:10-13 Circumcision made without hands.
 - Romans 2:28-29 The circumcision of the heart.
 - Jeremiah 4:4 Take away the foreskin on the heart.
 - Deuteronomy 30:6 The Lord will circumcise the heart.
- Note: Acts 19:1-6 / Acts 16:14-15 Where belief and faith are the prime factor).*

Baptism is a command:

- Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.
- Acts 10:48 Peter commanded Cornelius and his house to be baptized.
- Matthew 28:19 Baptism in the NAME of Father, Son, Holy Ghost (titles).
The Name is JESUS.
- Acts 22:16 Arise (Saul) and be baptized, washing away thy sins.
- John 3:3-5 You must be born of water and spirit.

The blood of Christ combined with our faith and water baptism does the cleansing work:

- Revelations 1:5 He washed us from sin in His own blood.
- John 1:7 The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.
- John 5:7-8 There are three that bear witness in earth; Spirit, water and blood.

The "NAME" and "BLOOD" are one.

- Acts 4:10, 12 There is Salvation in no other Name but Jesus.
- Acts 5:28 You have used His Name to bring his blood on us.
- Acts 10:36, 43 Through His Name you shall receive remission of sins.
- Acts 8:12 When they believed Philip, were baptized in Name of Jesus.
- Acts 18:8 Many Corinthians believed and were baptized in the Name.

The importance of using the NAME of JESUS.

In the "Name of Jesus" alone rests the power and authority to remove sin from our lives (Forgive and Remit)!! One cannot accept Christ without fully accepting His Name (Jesus). It is in the Name, Jesus, that all power and authority resides. The NAME represents the "person".

- Luke 5:20-24 Son of man has power to forgive sins.
(Note: Mark 2:7, 10 / Luke 7:49 / Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- Luke 24:46-47 Repentance and remission of sins preached in His Name.
- Acts 4:10-12 Salvation in no other Name but Jesus (vs.18).
- Acts 2:38 Baptize in the NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- Colossians 3:17 In all you do in word and deed, do in the Name of Jesus.
- Acts 10:36, 43 Preach peace and through His name receive remission of sins.
- John 20:31 We have life through His Name.
- Acts 8:12,16 When they believed they were baptized in the Name of Jesus.
- Acts 10:48 Commanded to be baptized in the Name of Jesus.

- Acts 19:5 When they heard this they were baptized in the Name of Jesus.
- Acts 22:16 (Saul) Arise, wash away thy sins, calling on the Name of the Lord. (Jesus).
- Matthew 28:19 Baptize in NAME (singular) of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 The Name of Father is: JESUS – John 5:43
 The Name of Son is: JESUS – Luke 1:31 / Matthew 1:21
 The Name of Holy Ghost is: JESUS – John 14:26

To baptize IN the Name equals INTO the Name – Thus becoming the property of that one whose name was used.

- Acts 3:6, 16 Through faith in His Name was this man healed.
- Matthew 28:18 All authority in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus.
- Colossians 1:15-17 By Him (Jesus) were all things created.

Most of our persecutions arise from using the NAME OF JESUS and not in using the word “God” as such.

NOTE: Acts 4:18 / Acts 4:2-3 / Acts 5:28, 40 / I Peter 4:14

Responsibilities to use the Name:

- II Timothy 2:19 Everyone who names the Name of Christ, is to depart from evil
- Galatians 3:27 When you are baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ.
- John 1:12 Power to become the sons of God – Believe on HIS NAME.
- Acts 4:30 Do signs and wonders by thy NAME – JESUS.
- Exodus 3:13-14 Moses asked what is thy Name? Say, I AM sent you.
- John 8:58 Jesus said, before Abraham was I AM.
- Judges 13:18 Why ask my name seeing its secret (hidden).
- Isaiah 9:6 His Name called Wonderful, Everlasting Father, etc.
- Matthew 12:21 In His Name shall the Gentiles trust.
- Matthew 1:21 The Name revealed – Call His Name JESUS (Luke 1:31).
- Matthew 1:23 Call His Name EMMANUEL – God with us (Isaiah 7:14).
- John 5:23, 28 Honor “Son” even (same as) the Father.
- John 2:23 He that has the Son has the Father also.
- John 10:30 I and my Father are ONE.
- II Corinthians 5:19 God in Christ reconciling world to Himself.
- I Timothy 3:16 God was manifested in the world.
- John 14:7-10 He that has seen me has seen the Father.
- John 12:44-45 See ME see HIM that sent me.
- Philippians 2:9-11 Jesus given Name above every Name.
- Proverbs 18:10 Name of Lord a strong tower (a safe place).

- John 14:13-14
- John 15:16
- John 16:23-26

When you ask in MY NAME it shall be done for you.

As we move on to Chapter 5, Baptism in Jesus Name is explained in a little more detail in tract form written by this author. When baptism has been accomplished, the next step on the stair-case is “Laying on of Hands”.