

Water Baptism

Notes by Franklin

There is controversy and misunderstandings over something as simple as water baptism.

Our misunderstandings of baptism begin with the fact that when the New Testament was translated, the Greek word 'baptismo' was simply spelled out with English letters. If it had been translated, it would be written: "placed into," "immerse" or "submerge."

When baptism is mentioned, water is the first thing that comes to most people's mind. But in reading the Scriptures, we must not jump quickly to that conclusion. For instance:

Luke 12:50

*"But **I have a baptism to undergo**, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!"*

Jesus was not talking about water baptism – He had already been baptized in water. He was talking about being **placed into death!**

Mark 10:38-39

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or **to be baptized** with the baptism with which I am baptized?" *They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and **you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.**"*

Yes, all who believe will be **baptized into His death!** That is what Romans 6:4 is speaking of! Placed into His death. Not water! Water baptism **is a picture of** being placed into His death.

Romans 6:4

*Therefore **we have been buried with Him through baptism into death** so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Colossians 2:12 is also speaking of baptized into His death, not water. *"Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

This makes the point that baptism does not always mean "into water."

A correct understanding of 1 Peter 3:21 will help bring correct understanding.

1 Peter 3:18-22

*"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, **eight persons, were brought safely through the water.**"*

*Corresponding to that, **baptism now saves you** — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him."*

The Ark was The Place of Safety! The Ark is a **picture** of Jesus Christ! The LORD selected who was to enter – those who believed in Him. He put them inside – placed them inside a picture of being baptized into Jesus.

They were placed inside the Ark because:

Genesis 6:8-9 *But **Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*

Noah was righteous and walked with God long before he entered the Ark. The Ark was a picture of being "in Jesus," **baptized into Jesus Christ** because Noah BELIEVED, long before he was baptized.

They "**were brought safely through the water**" because they were "placed into the Ark – into Jesus! The water DID NOT SAVE THEM the Ark – a type or picture of Jesus - saved them and therefore brought them safely through the water.

The water was the LORD'S Judgment. They came through the Judgment because they were in the Ark as we are "in Jesus" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27) and we WILL come through the Judgment.

*"Corresponding to this **baptism now saves us.**"*

Baptism into Jesus (the Ark) saves us from the coming judgment of which our **baptism in water** is a picture of.

"not the removal of dirt from the flesh," (that is, NOT what the water does) *"but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* We have a good conscience because of our faith that we are "in Jesus," we died with Him and have been raised with Him in His resurrection to *"walk in newness of life."*

And water baptism is a picture of all of this. And it is our first act of obedience to our Savior, who must also be our Lord to save us from defilement in this world through sin which allows Satan's attack.

This is why Jesus said, (Mark 16:16) *"He that believeth (justified by faith) and is baptized shall be saved (from both damnation and the defilement of this world); but he that **believeth not** shall be condemned"*

Condemned to eternal death from which water baptism cannot save him.

Eternal Life depends on – believing the truth. (This is justification) Water baptism (obedience) saves from the corruption and defilement of sin in this world that gives Satan an opportunity.

Thus the 'thief on the cross' believed and therefore had eternal life but he was not baptized in water. He did not need to be saved from this world's defilement since he was leaving this world.

Water Baptism is tied to our **salvation in this world, NOT our justification and eternal life**. Water baptism is our deliverance from the corruption of the world and demonic activity in that it is obedience, and that we are "crucified with Christ," dead. And a dead man does not sin!

See this same parallel in 1 Corinthians 10:2:

"And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

The cloud was evidence of their being justified by the blood of the Passover Lamb before they ever left Egypt, just as Noah found grace before the flood came.

But Israel needed to be delivered from Pharaoh. Thus they were baptized in the sea and set free from their earthly taskmaster as they obeyed the Lord and stepped in the water.

Baptizing In The Name of Jesus Only

Those people who are bringing in the teaching of **baptism in the Name of Jesus Only** are stealing and destroying the "good and clear conscience" from believers by their deception and false teaching.

First of all:

It does not really matter what the person 'doing the baptism' says – what matters is what the person 'being baptized' believes!

The Lord looks at the heart (1 Sam.16:7; Rom.8:27; 1 Thes.2:4). If He does not see true faith, it does not matter what is said, the person is not baptized but only gets wet. If the Lord sees true faith, it does not matter if he is baptized in: the Name of Jesus, or in the Name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or if nothing is said, it is a true baptism because of the persons faith and obedience.

Therefore, what is said is not for the LORD, but for the people standing by. For example:

John 11:41-44

*So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but **because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.**" When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."*

Second:

- The **Father** delights to give all honor and glory to Jesus
Colossians 1:15-19 Philippians 2:9
- The **Son** delights to give all honor and glory to the Father
John 8:29; 14:13; 17:4
- The **Holy Spirit** delights to give all honor and glory to the Son and to the Father John 16:13-15
- **Jesus** gives honor to the Holy Spirit Luke 12:10

There is no jealousy between The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
If a person is baptized in the Name of Jesus, the Father and Holy Spirit are delighted (John 16:23-24).

Third:

To baptize in the Name of Jesus is to baptize in the name of the Father, if it is spoken or not, the two are one.

John 10:30; 14:10-11; 17:21-23

The very thing that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are, and give of themselves to maintain: their UNITY and ONENESS, is being used to bring division and separation in the Body of Christ.

Fourth:

Acts 2:38 *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 10:48

*And he ordered them to be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.*

"in the name of" means: - By the authority of

example: "Open up in the name of the law!" The person speaking this is '**under the authority of**' the government and **has been told what to do** and given the authority to do it.

When Jesus told us how we should baptize it was not a formula but rather by **what authority** we would be doing the act.

Matthew 28:18-20

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me** in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Therefore whether we say "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," or in the "name of Jesus," **it is in the "authority"** of God (Jesus is God) that we speak.

Examples:

Acts 3:6

*But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: **In the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene — walk!"*

Meaning – in the authority of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:18

*And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all **in the name of Jesus**.*

They were speaking in the authority of Jesus.

He told them: "Go into all the world and preach . . ."

Acts 5:40

*They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak **in the name of Jesus**, and then released them.*

Meaning – in the authority of Jesus Christ.

Acts 9:27

*But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly **in the name of Jesus**.*

Acts 16:18

*She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you **in the name of Jesus Christ** to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.*

Meaning – in the authority of Jesus Christ come out.

Therefore, water baptism is:

1. A picture of our death, burial and resurrection "in Christ."
2. And second, our first act of obedience. It is obedience that saves us from defilement in this world and Satan's attacks.