

WHAT DID JESUS TEACH ABOUT BAPTISM?

WHAT BAPTISM DOES, AND DOES NOT DO, ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD, THE HOLY BIBLE.

Baptism can mean many things to different people in various religions.

Let us find out from the Holy Bible about baptism as taught by Jesus and the Apostle God appointed.

We will start with the man whose nickname was "John the Baptist". He was the prophet **whom God sent** to be the witness concerning "the Light" that was coming - "the Messiah". (John 1:6-8. Matthew 11:9-11.)

John was to call people to turn from wrong beliefs and practices - to repent - and be ready to receive and obey the soon coming Messiah. Those who believed in response to John's message he put down into the river Jordan baptising them.

Some very religious people came to John to be baptised, but they had no intention of turning from their wrong beliefs and behaviour. He turned them away saying, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." (Luke 3:7-8.) You see, true baptism is NOT something to make sinners good and pleasing to God, it is meant

only as a public way for *Believers* to publicly declare that they are ready and willing to accept the Messiah sent by God. (John 1:12-13.)

God had told John about a miracle that would identify the Messiah to John and to the people, and it happened exactly as God had said:

As John baptised someone “.. heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'” (Matthew 3:16-17.)

This is the evidence John had been told by God to look out for. So *this man called "Jesus" is the "Son of God" and God's promised Messiah! - The Christ!*

When I get a new book I would often stamp my name inside the cover. The stamp does not make the book mine. I stamp it *because it is mine already* and I want to let others know that it is mine. It is a bit like that with baptism - neither baptism nor the voice from Heaven made Jesus to be God's Son, nor did the dove bring Him the Holy Spirit - **Jesus Christ is the ETERNAL Son of God.** God was publicly identifying Jesus in this way for us. God wanted us to know that Jesus is His true Son, and that His Spirit is upon Him!

Baptism is NOT a way to make us right with God. *Only by repenting and believing in Jesus as Saviour can a person be made right with God.* (Acts 26:20.)

Jesus taught that those believing in Him should be baptised “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:18-20.) In this way Believers show that they belong to God, and proclaim to others by baptism that they are His followers.

Did you know that Jesus did not baptise people with water? (John 4:2.) John had told the people that when the Messiah would come **He would baptise people with the Holy Spirit.** (John 1:33. Matthew 3:11.)

Everyone who believes in Jesus for salvation receives the Holy Spirit from God. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22.) Jesus compared it to the believer receiving an endless satisfying source of thirst quenching water flowing from within the person! (John 7:37-39.)

Sadly many today want to believe that water baptism has magical spiritual powers that will take their sins away and make them acceptable to God, and some think **that** is how to receive the Holy Spirit! **Only Jesus the Saviour** can do these miracles for you, and *He will if you repent* - turn from believing other things or good works can save you - and trust in Jesus alone by faith to be your Saviour. (1 John 4:13-16.)

For further insights into the message of the Holy Bible go to www.godswordsays.com

Considering BAPTISM

My name is

Search the Scriptures. Find the answers in the Bible passages, and write them out in your own words.

- **WHY BAPTISE?** Matthew 28:18-20.

- **BAPTISE WHO?** Mark 16:15-16.

- **BAPTISE WHEN?** Acts 10:42-48.

- **BAPTISE HOW?** Acts 8:38-39.

- **WHAT BAPTISM SAYS.** Romans 6:3-4.

- **WHAT BAPTISM GIVES.** 1ST Peter 3:21-22.

Check in the following Bible references to identify the true statements.

Underline the true, and ~~cross out~~ the false.

- BAPTISM is important because it was ordered as a Christian act by -
[religious leaders: apostles: Jesus Christ.] See Matthew 28:18-20.

- BAPTISM is for -
[infants: adults: anyone who has faith in Jesus as their Saviour.] See Mark 16:15-16.

- BAPTISM - [is a sign that: is a proof that: is the occasion when,]
someone has come to saving faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. See Acts 19:1-5.

- BAPTISM - [makes us Christians: shows that we want to become a Christian: is meant to be an
evidence that the person already is a Christian.] See Mark 16:15-16.

- BAPTISM is to [make us a Church member: give us new birth and new life: show we now want to
obey and live for Jesus.] See Acts 16:31-34.

- BAPTISM - [brings us the Holy Spirit: forgives our sins: demonstrates loving obedience to Jesus
Christ.] See Romans 6:3-4.

- BAPTISM is by - [pouring on water: sprinkling with water: going down into water.]
See Acts 8:36-39.

- BAPTISM would be an important step for me because:
[write out your own answer overleaf] See Acts 10:42-48.