

The Apostolic Doctrine of Water Baptism

Part 1

The topic of this study is the Apostolic doctrine of water baptism.

We are not interested in what the Bible does not say, but we are interested in studying **what the Bible does say** on any given topic.

The will of God is revealed by the word of God, if you want to know God's will, then you must know God's word. And to rightly divide the word of truth, you must allow the scriptures to interpret the scriptures.

2 Peter 1:20-21, 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

There are many voices today that say they speak for God. But the things they are saying contradicts the Bible.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

With all these different voices, who are you going to believe?

There is only one voice that you must believe and that is the voice of the Spirit of God found speaking in the book we call the Bible.

Psalms 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Did God say in vain? **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

Deuteronomy 8:3 *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by **every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD** doth man live.*

Matthew 4:4 *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.***

Jesus said that His words are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

The words that Jesus gave to the apostles are the words of eternal life.

There is only one doctrine of salvation, and it was given by Jesus Christ to the apostles, and He commanded them to go into all the world and teach everyone how to get saved and how to stay saved.

Matthew 28:19-20, 19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost* **20** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Through the apostles of Jesus Christ, we have received the words of eternal life.

John 17:8 *For **I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me;** and they have received them and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

If you're following any person, group, or church that is not teaching the doctrine of salvation that was taught by the apostles to the first century church, then you have not received the true and faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:45-48, 45 ***Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*** **46** *And said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from*

the dead the third day: **47** And **that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations,** beginning at Jerusalem. **48** **And ye are witnesses of these things.**

John 15:26-27, 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: **27** And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Acts 5:31 -32, 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

The apostles preached water baptism as a condition of salvation everywhere they went. They were the eyewitnesses of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Through the apostles, God has given us a divinely inspired account of all things that pertain unto eternal life and godliness in the New Covenant that through their witness, we also may have fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-4, 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; **2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Galatians 1:8-9, 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **9** As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

John 17:14 & 21, 14 *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

Mark 16:20 *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

We all had to start believing somewhere, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, or any number of the 45,000 denominations that exist worldwide today.

But it is God who has begun a good work in you, and He has a plan and a purpose in your life that will continue for all eternity.

Philippians 2:13 & 15, 13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*

45,000 different interpretations of the book we call the Bible, when the Bible says there is only one faith.

Ephesians 4:5 *One Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

- The Bible tells us there is only one doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

It's the **"doctrine"** (singular) not the **"doctrines"** (plural).

- He is the God of Truth

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

- He desires that we become His adopted children walking in truth.

2 John 1:4 *I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*

- To serve Him in Truth

1 Samuel 12:24 *Only fear the LORD and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*

- To be made free by Truth

John 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

- The psalmist said:

Psalms 15:1-2, 1 *who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*

Psalms 43:3 *O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.*

It's Truth that will lead us to God. And that Truth is declared in the book we call the Bible. If you're serious about being saved, then you must be serious about the word of God. God and His word are one, to know God is to know His word.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

There is no greater act of worship than the act of submitting oneself to the word of God, to obey is better than sacrifice.

1 Samuel 15:22 *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:29** *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me..."*

Jesus wants us to take His yoke willingly and put it upon ourselves, as an act of submission. It's not forced upon us, but that we would gladly take it upon us, grateful that He would even consider us worthy to bear it.

The word baptism comes from the Greek word baptisma: (bap'-tis-mah) meaning

- **immersion**
- **submersion**
- **to be overwhelmed.**

The root word of baptism is baptize from the Greek word baptizo (bap-tid'-zo) meaning to dip repeatedly, to immerse; to submerge; to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water.

G907

βαπτίζω

baptizō

bap-tid'-zo

From a derivative of **G911**; to *makewhelmed* (that is, *fully wet*); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial *ablution*, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian *baptism*: - baptist, baptize, wash.

The first mention of baptism in the New Testament is the baptism of repentance administered by the prophet, John the Baptist, who was sent to Israel under the Old Covenant, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Malachi 4:5-6, 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: **6** And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Luke 1:16-17, 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. **17** And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Mark 1:4-5, 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. **5** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

The baptism of repentance was preached to prepare natural Israel to receive their God, who was manifested in the flesh, at the closing of the Old Covenant, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers. And to offer Himself a sacrifice for many for the remission of sins under both Covenants.

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

The baptism of repentance preached by John marked the last days of the last generation of the Old Covenant age, and by contrast, it was the dawning of the eternal age of the New Covenant, which is established upon better promises.

Hebrews 8:6 & 13, 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of **a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.** **13** In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Those that had an ear to hear, obeyed the call of John to repent, and their hearts were made ready to receive Him of whom John said should come after him, and through faith in Jesus Christ, they would continue on to ultimately receive the remission of their sins through the blood of His sacrifice.

Repentance comes from the remorseful heart of one that has stopped resisting the indictment of sin guilt and finally accepts the responsibility.

And with the understanding, that it is sin that separates us from God, they turn from their sin and turn to Jesus looking to be reconciled through the promise of the gospel.

Psalm 51:16-17, 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. {else...: or, that I should} **17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20, 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. **20** Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, **18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Repentance is where we start, but repentance is not the end, and it is not a onetime act. Repentance, along with its attitudes and works, becomes a way of life for the child of God.

The Bible tells us, that it is God's goodness and His willingness to save us, that brings us to a place of genuine repentance.

Romans 2:3-4, 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? **4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Mark 1:5 speaking of John the Baptist says, “there went out unto him **all** the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were **all** baptized of him in the river of Jordan”

We know that **all**, in the literal sense, did not believe, and **all** were not baptized by John. What **Mark 1:5** is telling us is **all that did believe** the words of John were baptized.

Matthew 21:25 *The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?*

Luke 7:29-30, 29 *And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.*

All that believed the word of God were baptized of John, and those that did not believe, chose not to be baptized.

It was faith and obedience to the command to be baptized that justified the word of God in them, and by their work of faith, they proved their faith in the righteous counsel of God’s word.

Luke 7:29 *And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.*

And like Abraham, their faith was accounted to them for righteousness.

When John came preaching the baptism of repentance, the people first had to take the time to hear what was being said, then they had to decide whether or not to believe what they had heard, and finally by faith, they had to obey the words of John by repenting and being baptized.

A point to be made about **Luke 7:29-30** is that the **evidence of their faith was seen in their obedience** to the command to be baptized.

And no doubt it was a command, not a suggestion.

And so likewise, the evidence of unbelief was seen in those that refused to be baptized. They all heard the same message, but faith and obedience made the difference.

It is implied that those who rejected the baptism of John, were outside the will of God. It was not enough to only believe, they had to obey and be baptized.

If God commanded **all** to be baptized unto repentance of sin, then is it that hard to believe that God has commanded **all** to be baptized for the remission of sin?

- Even Jesus gave an example of baptism.

Matthew 3:13-15, 13 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.*

John said that he had need (the necessity, or duty) to be baptized of Jesus. Do you see the remission of your sins as a necessity for yourself?

Jesus also said in **verse 15** that baptism is part of **fulfilling all righteousness**. Without water baptism, the righteous will of God cannot be fulfilled in your life.

To summarize, the baptism of John was a baptism of repentance, it was not the remission or removal of sin but repentance or heartfelt sorrow of sin.

Those that were baptized by John were baptized under the Old Covenant and they all were baptized again in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins from the day of Pentecost onward under the New Covenant.

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