

Points About Water Baptism 2



Matthew 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

Matthew 28:19 was one of the occasions in the Gospels when Jesus instructed His Apostles on how to baptize converts in the Christian era. Here, His instruction called for a singular name— “...in the name of...”. Not surprisingly, Matthew 28:19 has a biblical fulfillment. A verse this important must have.

Q: How did the Apostles fulfill this command, for certainly they did, or otherwise they would have been disobedient to it?

Answer: They fulfilled it by baptizing “in the name of Jesus”. That is the only way they ever baptized. See the book of Acts.

Q: Is there anywhere in Acts, which is the only inspired history of the Apostles carrying out their commission, where we see that the Apostles baptized converts by saying, “... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”?

Answer: No

Q: Was anyone in the Bible ever baptized by these words being spoken over them, “... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”?

Answer: No

Q: Then how were these words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 fulfilled by the Apostles?

Answer: By using the actual saving name of Jesus.

The Scriptures inform us that “Jesus” is the only name by which people can be saved.

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

In fact, the name of Jesus is the only proper divine name in the New Testament. It is the New Covenant name, as Jehovah was the Old Covenant name. The name of Jesus is used nearly a thousand times in the New Testament with no rival.

Q: Did Jesus address the name to be used in baptism on any occasion other than that recorded in Matthew 28:19?

Answer: Yes. He further instructed the Apostles on baptism at a later date than Matthew 28:19. It occurred just prior to His Ascension and is recorded by Luke. It is also the occasion when He “opened their understanding” (See Luke 24:45-47). This is the last instruction He gave them regarding baptism before they would put His teaching into practice on the Day of Pentecost. This occasion in Luke actually concludes the teaching and charge He gave His Apostles, which we call the Great Commission. There He instructed them that baptism (remission of sins) was to be preached in His Own name. You will see His Apostles fulfilling this command about ten days later in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. They had combined the instruction given them in Matthew 28:19 with that given later in Luke when they were further enlightened (Luke 24:45) and baptized about three thousand souls in Jesus’ name.

It must be understood that the Apostles were in no doubt as to what to preach regarding baptism.

People may confuse the matter today by misunderstanding the Scriptures, but the Apostles were not confused. They were taught well by their Master. Before Christ left this earth, the Apostles knew exactly His prescription for the baptismal formula. When considering the proper formula today, we must understand that no one can know clearer than the Apostles what Jesus intended when He spoke the words of Matthew 28:19. They were the ones to whom He was speaking. And they were the ones who fulfilled it and would provide the example for us to follow. What they came to understand as to its meaning is evident by how they carried it out. No one since them has the right to carry it out differently than they did. Jesus certified in His High Priestly prayer that His Apostles were correct in their doctrine (John 17:6-20). And, what’s more, the Bible cannot contradict itself. If Matthew 28:19 was not fulfilled by the Apostles baptizing in Jesus’ name, then we must conclude that the command Jesus gave them to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost was never carried out. That conclusion is impossible.

Q: How were ALL the converts to Christianity in the Bible baptized?

Answer: In Jesus’ name

Acts 2:38,41

Acts 8:16

Acts 10:48

Acts 19:5

Acts 22:16

Since all the converts to Christianity in the Bible were baptized in Jesus' name, would you feel confident doing it any other way?

Wouldn't being baptized other than the way we see it being done in Acts by the Apostles be disobedient and arrogant? The Bible says, "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). That would require there is only one right way to baptize. Is it even imaginable that they didn't have it? Certainly not! Truthfully, as regards us, there is no greater evidence for the baptismal formula to be used in baptism than that which was actually practiced by the Apostles. That is why these examples were given to us by God. They were intended to be followed as the model for Christian salvation practice. To be baptized other than by the biblical examples is to reject the one baptism of the Bible. From a biblical perspective, the baptism carried out in those inspired examples is the baptism to be carried out and received by all.

Q: Is the act of baptism necessary for salvation?

Answer: Yes.

According to Jesus in Mark 16:15,16

According to Peter in 1Peter 3:21

It is also necessary for salvation because it is the means whereby we receive remission of sins, which is the next point of this lesson.

Q: Is baptism functional or merely symbolic?

Answer:

Through baptism, we are mystically, but actually, buried with Christ into His death (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)— a necessity if we're going to be raised in the likeness of His resurrection.

Baptism remits, or, washes away, our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). This makes it the most important aspect of salvation.

It is the means whereby we are "in Christ" (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27)

Q. Is baptism a command of Scripture?

Answer: Yes.

Acts 2:38 is an imperative to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Peter, likewise, commanded baptism in Acts 10:48.

Jesus required baptism in the sense that He is the One Who taught those, such as Peter, what to teach in the Christian era and made their word authoritative to us (John 17:20).

★ **Baptism is a seminal command.**

The promise of God's Spirit is linked to obedience of it.

Acts 2:38-39