

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD



A STUDY OF WATER BAPTISM

IN DEDICATION TO ALL THE SOUL-WINNERS THAT NEED
A BIBLE STUDY ON BAPTISM THAT WILL PRESENT THE
MESSAGE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE WAY.

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CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect... (Heb. 12:22-24).

The writer of Hebrews speaks about Jerusalem the heavenly city and about a multitude of angels and citizens that reside there, where the streets are paved with gold, a river of crystal, and its gates of pearls. The citizens of Jerusalem are the saints of the Living God and come from every nation and tongue. Jesus Christ is the Governor of this heavenly city, and desires that “whomsoever believeth,” would be a citizen of this country with complete benefits.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; (Ephes. 2:19-21).

Just as all nations have requirements for becoming citizens, Jesus too has requirements which are not burdensome.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR

2 Tim. 3:16

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 12:48

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”



Read Rev. 20:12-15

They were judged according to whether their works lined up with the _____. The books are the 66 books of the _____ of God.

BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE CITY

Mark 16:16

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

John 3:5

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

I Peter 3:20-21

“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”

Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

**According to the Word of God,
baptism is essential for salvation.
True or False.**

BAPTISM WAS PERFORMED BY IMMERSION

In the Bible, everyone was submerged in water when baptized.

Matthew 3:16

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...”

Mark 1:10

“And straightway coming up out of the water...”

Acts 8:38

“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down

both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him...”

The word, “baptize,” is derived from the Greek word, “baptizo.” Baptizo means “to submerge, or to become completely wet.”

**Christ was immersed in water when he was baptized.
True or False.**

**The early church believers were immersed in water when baptized.
True or False.**

MODE OF BAPTISM

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.”

The Significance of Matthew 28:19

When Jesus gave the Great Commission to baptize in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...

1. He either wanted them to repeat his words that he spoke, or he was commanding them to baptize in the Name.
2. To understand this verse, it is necessary to see exactly how people were baptized in the Bible.

In obedience to Jesus’ commandment, people were always baptized in the Name of Jesus.

1. Jesus did not preach one gospel and the apostles another. All of the apostles heard him clearly and did exactly what he asked.
2. It is just as if I would ask you to write your name. Would you write “Your Name”?



Jesus said in 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.”

When Jesus commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, he did not command them to repeat that phrase, he commanded them to perform that task.

Matthew 28:19 never mentions names; it only mentions titles of God.

For example,

1. Father is not a name
2. Son is not a name
3. Holy Ghost is not a name

That is why Matthew 28:19 states, “**baptizing them in the name (Singular)** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” and not **baptizing them in the names (Plural)** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The event of Matthew 28 is referred to as the Great Commission and was repeated a few days later to the apostles in Bethany. Luke recorded this event as follows:

Luke 24:47

“And that repentance and *remission of sins* should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

WHAT DOES “REMISSION OF SINS” MEAN?

Mark 1:4

“John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the *remission of sins*.”

Luke 3:3

“And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the *remission of sins*.”

Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the *remission of sins*...”

Acts 10:43, 48

“...through his **name** whosoever believeth in him shall receive *remission of sins*...And he commanded them to be **baptized in the name of the Lord.**”

“Remission of sins” refers to water baptism. True or False.

BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME

So, in Luke 24, Jesus was saying that baptism should be preached in His Name.

Luke 24:47

“And that repentance and *remission of sins* should be preached in his **name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

What about Matthew 28:19?

“Name” is singular. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles; not names.

What is the name of the Father?

- John 5:43 “I am come in my Father’s name.”
- Heb. 1:4 “(Jesus) he hath by inheritance obtained



a more excellent name than they (angels).”

What is the name of the Son?

- Matthew 1:21 “and thou shalt call his name Jesus”

What is the name of the Holy Ghost?

- John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name.”

Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 8:16

“...they were baptized in the **name of the Lord Jesus.**”

Acts 10:48

“...he commanded them to be baptized in the **name of the Lord.**”

Acts 19:5

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the **name of the Lord Jesus.**”



Acts 22:16

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the **name of the Lord.**”

Colosenses 3:17

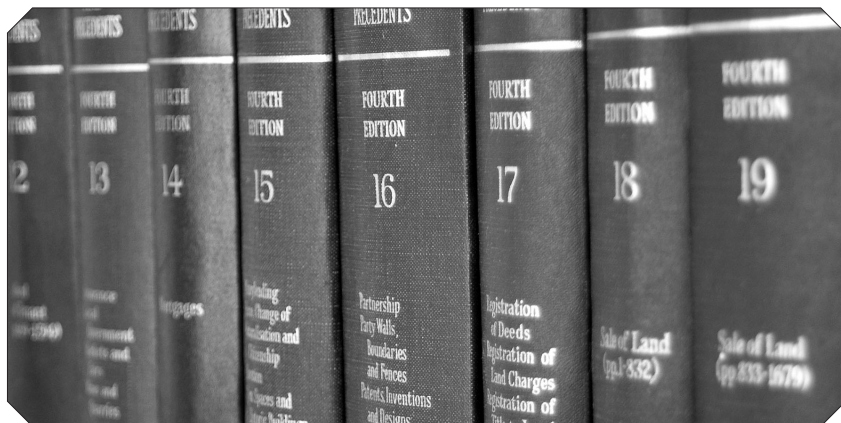
“And WHATSOEVER ye do in word or deed, do ALL in the **name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him...”

In the Bible, no one was ever baptized using the words “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost!”

What words did the apostles use when they baptized people?

- a. **“in the name of Jesus”**
- b. **“in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost”**

According to religious and secular history, the early Church always baptized their converts in the Name of Jesus!



Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (1951). II, 384, 389: “The formula used was “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” or some synonymous phrase; there is no evidence for the use of the trine name... The earliest form, represented in the Acts, was simple immersion... in water, the use of the name of the Lord, and the laying on of

hands. To these were added, at various times and places which cannot be safely identified, (a) the trine name (Justin)..."

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (1962), I 351: "The evidence...suggests that baptism in early Christianity was administered, not in the threefold name, but 'in the name of Jesus Christ' or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.'"

Otto Heick, A History of Christian Thought (1965), I, 53: "At first baptism was administered in the name of Jesus, but gradually in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible (1898). I, 241: "[One explanation is that] the original form of words was 'into the name of Jesus Christ' or 'the Lord Jesus,' Baptism into the name of the Trinity was a later development."

Williston Walker, A History of the Christian Church (1947), page 58: "The trinitarian baptismal formula,,, was displacing the older baptism in the name of Christ."

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (1957), I, 435: "The New Testament knows only baptism in the name of Jesus... which still occurs even in the second and third centuries."

Canney's Encyclopedia of Religions (1970), page 53: "Persons were baptized at first 'in the name of Jesus Christ' ... or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus' ... Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.'"

Encyclopedia Biblica (1899), I, 473: "It is natural to conclude that baptism was administered in the earliest times 'in the name of Jesus Christ,' or in that 'of the Lord Jesus.' This view is confirmed by the fact that the earliest forms of the baptismal confession appear to have been single-not triple, as was the later creed."

Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed. (1920), II 365: "The trinitarian formula and trine immersion were not uniformly used from the beginning... Bapti[sm] into the name of the Lord [was] the normal formula of the New Testament. In the 3rd century baptism in the name of Christ was still so widespread that Pope Stephen, in opposition to Cyprian of Carthage, declared it to be valid."

**To assure your entrance into Heaven, have you been baptized in
the Name of Jesus for the remission of you sins?**

Yes or No?

Would you like to be baptized in the Name of Jesus?



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