

What every Christian Ought To Know.

CHAP. #6 Believers Baptism!



THERE ARE **THREE** MODES (OR METHODS) OF **WATER BAPTISM** USED IN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TODAY:

1. **IMMERSION**: Is the practice in which the person is completely “**submerged**” in water.
 2. **AFFUSION**: Is the practice of, “**pouring water**” over one's head. This practice came into being around the 12th century because of the lack of water that was needed to baptize, (**convenience.**)
 3. **ASPERSION**: Is the act of “**sprinkling water**” over one's head, a ritual that started back around the 12th century for those who were bed ridden, and unable to be moved.
- Evangelical Christians are divided on the question of which mode or modes are proper forms of baptism.
 - Some Christians, typically those who believe that only believers should be baptized think that immersion is the only valid mode.
 - Other Christians, usually those who recognize the validity of “***infant baptism,***” consider all three modes to be acceptable.

BAPTISM ACCORDING TO JESUS!

- BAPTISM IS A “BIBLE” DOCTRINE, NOT JUST A “BAPTIST” DOCTRINE.

- Jesus **“COMMENCED”** His three-and-a-half-year ministry by being baptized.

Notice: (Mk. 1:9) *“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”* **Notice also V. 10** *“Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;*

- Jesus **“CONCLUDED”** His Ministry by commanding baptism-

“The Great Commission.” **Notice: (Matt. 28:19-20)** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Baptism According to Jesus!

Cont.

- Jesus was **“FULLY IMMERSED,”** again **V. 10** ***“coming up out of the water.”*** There is **NO biblical** account of “Sprinkling, or Pouring.” There is only one kind of water baptism taught in the Bible= **Immersion!**
- Jesus was not **“INCONVENIENCED”** by the long journey of about sixty miles to be baptized. The bible says He came from Nazareth of Galilee to where John was in the Jordan.
- Why was John at this particular location? **Notice: (Jn. 3:23)** ***“John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized—”*** **“IMMERSION.”**

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

- **Notice: (Matt. 3:13-15)** *“Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” 15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.”*
- It is not difficult to understand John’s concern. His (John’s) baptism **was for CONFESSION OF SIN and REPENTANCE (Matt. 3:2, 6, 11)**, of which he himself needed; but Jesus had no sins to confess or be forgiven of. John’s baptism was for those who turned from their sin and thereby became fit for the arrival of the great King. Why, then, would the sinless King Himself want to be baptized?

VIEWS THAT ARE **UNSCRIPTURAL!**

- **WHY DID JESUS**, Want To Submit Himself to an act that testified to *confession* and *repentance* of sin?
 1. Some interpreters suggest that He intended His baptism to be a sort of initiatory rite for His high priesthood, reflecting the ceremony which prepared the Old Testament priests for their ministry.
 2. Others suggest that Jesus wanted to identify Himself with the Gentiles, who were initiated into Judaism as proselytes by the act of baptism.
 3. Still others take Jesus' baptism to be His recognition and endorsement of John's authority, His accrediting of John as a true prophet of God and the genuine forerunner of His own ministry.
 4. A fourth view is that the Lord intended to be baptized vicariously for the sins of mankind, making His baptism, along with His atoning death on the cross, a part of His sin-bearing, redemptive work.

JESUS TELLS US WHY?

- **JESUS** Himself explains to **JOHN** His reason for wanting to be baptized. In His first recorded words since the age of twelve, when He told His parents, ***“Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”*** (Lk. 2:49),
- **Notice** what Jesus said to John in, (Matt. 3:15) ***“Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”*** These are words of **ROYAL DIGNITY** and **HUMILITY**.
- Jesus assured the prophet that ***“in this way it is fitting,”*** and went on to explain to John that His baptism was important for **BOTH** of their ministries, ***“for us to fulfill all righteousness.”*** **FOR GOD’S PLAN TO BE PERFECTLY FULFILLED**, it was **necessary** for Jesus to be baptized and to be baptized specifically by John.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 3 BIBLICAL REASONS FOR *HIS BAPTISM.*

1. One reason Jesus submitted to baptism was to give an ***“EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE”*** to His followers. **Notice: (Lk. 20:25) *“And He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*** Also: (Matt. 17:25-27)
2. Jesus came into the world to ***“IDENTIFY WITH MEN;”*** and to identify with men is to identify with sin. He could not purchase righteousness for mankind if He did not identify with mankind’s sin. Hundreds of years before Christ’s coming, Isaiah had declared that the Messiah ***“was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many and interceded for the transgressors”*** (Isa. 53:12).

This was the first act of His ministry, the first step in the redemptive plan that He came to fulfill. He who had no sin took His place among those who had no righteousness. He who was without sin submitted to a baptism for sinners. In this act the Savior of the world took His place among the sinners of the world. The sinless Friend of sinners was sent by the Father ***“in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh”*** (Rom. 8:3); ***and He “made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”*** (2 Cor. 5:21)

Notice: (Isa. 53:11). ***“As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.”*** There was no other way to **“FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.”** Again, (Matt. 3:15)

3. Jesus' baptism was also a **“SYMBOL OF HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION, AND THEREFORE A PREFIGUREMENT OF CHRISTIAN/BELIEVER'S BAPTISM.”**

Jesus made only **two** other references to personal baptism, and each related to His death. Not long before His final trip to Jerusalem He told His disciples, ***“I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!”*** (Lk. 12:50).

On the other occasion He was responding to the request by **JAMES** and **JOHN** that they be given the top positions in His heavenly kingdom. ***“You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”*** (Mark 10:38). Jesus' supreme identification with sinners was His taking their sin upon Himself, which He did at Calvary.

Though John, having been given such a brief explanation, could not possibly have comprehended the full meaning of Jesus' baptism, he accepted His Lord's word and obeyed. ***"THEN HE PERMITTED HIM."***

