

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:37-41.

INTRODUCTION: Several baptisms are mentioned in the New Testament. For example, Acts 19:1-6. In this morning's lesson, we want to discuss baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus.

ITS EFFECTS. *People who are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ...*

1. **Are born again.** John 3:3-5.
2. **Become the possession of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Matthew 28:18-20. "What did Christ mean by baptizing them 'into the name' of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Many scholars were uncertain. Then archaeologists began to uncover numerous Greek papyri continuing the phrase *eis to onama*, 'into the name.' It was a technical expression denoting 'into the possession' of someone. A slave was sold into the name, i.e., into the possession, of his owner. So, as Moulton and Milligan comment: 'The usage is of interest in connection with Matthew 28:19, where the meaning would seem to be "baptized into the possession of the Father," etc.' What a thrilling concept! When one, in believing penitence, turns to the Lord by the obedient act of being immersed in water, by that submission, he becomes the possession of the divine Godhead" (Apologetics Press). 1 Corinthians 1:12-13.
3. **Are saved.** Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:40-41A; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21A.
4. **Are forgiven.** Acts 2:38.
5. **Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** Acts 2:38.
6. **Go on their way rejoicing.** Acts 8:35-39.
7. **Wash away their sins.** Acts 22:16; Ephesians 5:25-27.
8. **Are being faithful to the Lord, are believing in God (i.e. trusting, relying, depending).** Acts 16:15, 30B-34.
9. **Walk in newness of life.** Romans 6:3-4.
10. **Are added to the body or church of Christ.** 1 Corinthians 12:13 w/Ephesians 1:22-23.
11. **Are clothing themselves with or putting on Christ.** Galatians 3:26-27.
12. **Are not trying to earn their salvation.** Titus 3:5.
13. **Obtain a good conscience.** 1 Peter 3:21.
14. **Etc.**



ITS PREREQUISITES:

1. **In the name of Jesus Christ.** Acts 10:48A.
2. **Belief.** Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-37A.
3. **Confession of faith.** Acts 8:36-37; Romans 10:1-3, 9-10.
4. **Repentance.** Acts 2:38.
5. **For the forgiveness of sins, etc.** Acts 2:38.

ITS NATURE:

1. **Water.** Acts 8:36.
2. **Immersion.**
 - A. **Definition.** The word literally means immersion. "1. From the preceding examples it appears, that the ground-idea, expressed by this word is, to put into or under water (or other penetrable substance), so as entirely to immerse or submerge; that this act is always expressed in the literal application of the word, and is the basis of its metaphorical uses. This ground-idea is expressed in English, in the

various connections where the word occurs, by the terms (synonymous in this ground-element) to immerse, immerge, submerge, to dip, to plunge, to imbathe, to whelm. 2. These examples are drawn from writers in almost every department of literature and science; from poets, rhetoricians, philosophers, critics, historians, geographers; from writers on husbandry, on medicine, on natural history, on grammar, on theology; from almost every form and style of composition, romances, epistles, orations, fables, odes, epigrams, sermons, narratives; from writers of various nations and religions, Pagan, Jew, and Christian, belonging to many different countries, and through a long succession of ages. 3. In all, the word has retained its ground-meaning, without change. From the earliest age of Greek literature down to its close (a period of about two thousand years), not an example has been found, in which the word has any other meaning. There is no instance, in which it signifies to make a partial application of water by affusion [pouring, *tdn*] or sprinkling, or to cleanse, to purify, apart from the literal act of immersion as the means of cleansing or purifying" (T. J. Conant, *The Meaning and Use of Baptizein*).

- B. **Substitution.** If we substitute pouring, sprinkling, and immersion for the word "baptism" in John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39, and Romans 6:4, immersion is the only word that makes sense given the usage of the word "baptism" in these texts.
 - C. **Transliteration.** As I understand it, the only reason we have the English word "baptism" is because the translators of the King James Version were afraid to properly translate the Greek word because the Church of England practiced pouring. Therefore, to avoid mistranslating AND to avoid angering King James, the translators transliterated the Greek word, i.e. they made it an English word and left it to the readers to interpret its proper meaning.
3. **Immediate.** Acts 16:33; 8:12, 36.
4. **One.** Ephesians 4:5.

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. I've not preached "Church of Christ" doctrine. I've done nothing more or less than what Phillip did when he taught the Ethiopian eunuch. I've simply preached Jesus. Acts 8:35-39.
- 2. It is absolutely vital that we preach and practice the doctrine of Christ. Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 1:9.
- 3. Have you practiced the doctrine of Christ regarding baptism?
 - A. If you have never been baptized, you need to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - B. If you were "baptized" as an infant, you did not meet the prerequisites for baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus and therefore need to be baptized as a responsible human being. Infants do not need to be baptized because they have no sins that need to be washed away.
 - C. If you were baptized *before* you believed with all your heart (Acts 8:37), *before* you confessed with your mouth (Romans 10:9-10), and/or *before* you genuinely and whole-heartedly repented (Acts 2:38), you need to be baptized *after* you meet these prerequisites.
 - D. If you were poured or sprinkled, i.e. not immersed, you need to be baptized, i.e. immersed.
 - E. If you were baptized for the wrong reasons, i.e. because you thought they were already saved, to make you're your parents happy, because your peers were getting baptized, so your spouse would marry you, etc., you need to be baptized for the right reasons.
 - F. Those who have any doubts need to eliminate all doubt by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: Acts 18:24-26. What did Apollos do? What should you do? Please do it now!