

Significance of Jesus Name Baptism

The Book of Acts clearly establishes that the Apostles and the early church consistently baptized in the name of Jesus. This formula is as valid today as it was on the opening day of the dispensation of grace on the Day of Pentecost. If we accept the Bible as the sole authority upon which our salvation rests, we should willingly and eagerly accept this aspect of New Testament salvation.

Baptism is not a mere symbol or outward practice of some inward transformation, but is a vital ingredient in God's plan of redeeming mankind to himself. The same reasons for being baptized are the same reasons for invoking the name of Jesus during baptism. If someone wishes to be baptized in water and yet refuses to have invoked over them the name of Jesus, that person has failed to grasp the true reasons and purposes behind baptism to begin with.

1. **Everyone generally agrees that water baptism is for the purpose of expressing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.** When listeners on the Day of Pentecost heard the message, believed that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Savior, they were baptized.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard <this>, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men <and> brethren, what shall we do? 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. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added <unto them> about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:36-38; 41.

When the Samaritans believed Philip concerning his message about Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they were baptized.

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12.

When the disciples of John heard and believed that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of John the Baptist's prophecy, they were re baptized.

“Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard <this>, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:4-5

To express your faith in Jesus Christ is to confess His name and in the examples given, the just mentioned candidates were baptized in His name thus confirming their faith.

2. Baptism is for the remission of sins

“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 2:38.

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Acts 22:16.

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” Acts 10:43.

There is definitely a connection between invoking the name of Jesus in baptism and receiving the remission or forgiveness of sins.

3. Baptism is a part of your salvation.

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16.

“The like figure whereunto <even> baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” 1 Peter 3:21.

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

Our act of obedience to having the name of Jesus invoked during baptism set the stage for his act of grace to remit our sins that we have previously confessed.

4. Baptism is a burial with Jesus Christ.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”—Romans 6:4.

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with <him> through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”—Colossians 2:12.

At water baptism, we identify with Jesus' burial in a borrowed tomb. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” We must follow Jesus in death, burial and resurrection.

5. Baptism is a part of the New Birth.

“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.” -- John 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;”—Titus 3:5.

Baptism is a part of the process by which we are born into the family of God. We can also see baptism as a part of the sequence of events bringing us a gentile body into God’s spiritual family through an adoption process.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”—Romans 8:15-16.

A newly born or adopted child always takes on the name of his new family. Since we are entering into the church of Jesus Christ which is called his body and bride, we should take on his name, making the adoption process legal.

6. Baptism is a part of our spiritual circumcism.

“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with <him> through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;” Colossians 2:11-13.

Under the old covenant, a male child officially received his name at his physical circumcism. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.—Luke 2:21.

Water baptism is the time when our new family name is invoked upon us at our spiritual circumcism. We know that the identifying name of our new spiritual family is Jesus because, first, it is the only name in which we can receive salvation.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6.

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

Jesus is the supreme name by which God has chosen to reveal himself to man.

(Phil 2:9-11 KJV) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and

things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At one day in the future, everyone will acknowledge that there is only one supreme LORD and they will know his name as JESUS. This future event will fulfill Is. 45:23 which says,

“I have sworn by myself, the word is one out of my mouth <in> righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” Isaiah 45:23.

This corresponds with Zech. 14:9 which predicts that God shall one day be known by one name.

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”—Zechariah 14:9