



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#130)
Water baptism – in his "name."


ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST BE WILLING TO...

You must...

- ⇒ Deny yourself (give up your own ways).
- ⇒ Take up your own cross and follow him (as he carries *his* own cross).
- ⇒ Give Jesus #1 priority *over all else* – family, self, possessions, etc.

Otherwise, you cannot be his disciple. (He said so.)

[Matthew 10:38; 16:24; 19:21; Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23; 14:26-27, 33; 18:22; John 10:27; 12:26; etc.]



AND WHEN I LEAVE, YOU MUST GO AND MAKE* DISCIPLES.

HOW? * (Not by force, but by telling them the Good News, and letting God change their hearts.)

Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

REQUIREMENT FOR BECOMING A DISCIPLE/FOLLOWER OF JESUS:

- ✓ **Baptism** (and all that it signifies).
- ✓ A willingness to **obey** Jesus (including doing the things mentioned on the previous slide).

★ **Otherwise, you are not following him! ★**



THE OBLIGATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

- The apostles recognized that the command about baptism was to be **obeyed**.

[The people] ... "Brothers, what should we do?"
[Peter] ... "**Repent and be baptized** ..."
Acts 2:37b, 38a (CSB)

⇒ The **HEART CHANGES** – represented by the word "repent" – **were also necessary**.

HEART CHANGES MUST COME FIRST!	<p>EXAMPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Repentance (see the above verse). ✓ Accepting/believing the Good News. <p>Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.</p> <p>Acts 18:8b (CSB)</p>
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HEART CHANGES MUST COME FIRST!

This means: Getting people baptized is NOT our primary goal!

⇒ Telling them the Good News is the primary goal. (Those who accept it can be baptized.)

For Christ didn't send me to **baptize**, but to **preach the Good News** ...
1 Corinthians 1:17a (NLT)

⇒ Scripture never tells us to baptize a person who hasn't accepted the Good News.

>> **THIS IS BECAUSE <<**

⇒ **"Getting wet" does not change the HEART!**



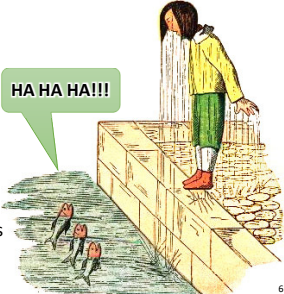
BAPTISM

on the **OUTSIDE**
does not guarantee
a changed heart
on the **INSIDE**.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE I GOT WET?

HA HA HA!!!

By itself, it is *meaningless*. But when associated with the rest of the "process of salvation," it is *rich in significance*.



BAPTISM IS TO BE DONE "IN THE NAME OF JESUS," OR "IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER/SON/HOLY SPIRIT"

NOT THIS! *What does this mean?*

I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF...

★ It is **NOT** a magical chant or formula. ★

- ✓ Quoting these phrases does NOT cause a person to be saved.
- ✓ Mis-quoting these phrases does NOT cause a person to be unsaved.



Names can be significant, but they aren't magic!

(Some false religions claim they are magic. The Bible doesn't.)

[Philip] proclaimed ... the **name** of Jesus Christ ...
Acts 8:12b (NIV)

WHEN PHILIP DID THIS...

- He wasn't uttering some magical incantation that contained the word "Jesus."
- He was *telling them about Jesus – who he was, what he did, etc.*

ABOUT NAMES.

- A person's name represents the person – his essence, his significance... *all that he is*.
- Though not always the case, there were many instances in the Bible, in which a person's name had a special significance or meaning (which might pertain to the person, an event, or perhaps something else). Sometimes names were changed (or a second name given) for this purpose.

EXAMPLE (a second name):

Jesus looked at Simon and said, "You are **Simon**, son of John. Your name will be **Cephas**" (which means "**Peter**").
John 1:42b (GW)

"Cephas" (Aramaic) and "Peter" (Greek) both mean "rock."

THE NAMES OF GOD / JESUS.

- These names are 100% significant; and are one of the ways God has revealed himself to us. Through these names, we learn a lot about his essence, his nature – who he is, what he does, etc.
- To truly know his name is something which goes beyond being able to utter the consonants and vowels that form his name. It requires a response from us: It brings us into a special relationship to him – one that affects the way we think and live.
- **In the Old Testament:** The "name" of God is "Yahweh" – in some translations, "Jehovah" or "LORD" (in capital letters).
- **In the New Testament:** The "name" of God is "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19) – though the word "God" can apply to any of them.

THE NAMES USED IN BAPTISM.

- **In Matthew 28:19:** Baptism in the "name" of **the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit** points to our relationship with the true God – who he is, what he has done, its application to us, etc.
- **In Acts:** Baptism in the "name" of **Jesus** points to the one who made possible our new relationship with God. Additional terms, may be added, which tell us more about him.
 - ✓ "**Christ**" – Jesus was the one chosen by God for accomplishing this.
 - ✓ "**Lord**" – Jesus is our master, the one we serve.

THE EARLY CHURCH BAPTIZED IN WHO'S NAME?

★ There is no evidence that they ever used an exact, unchanging phrase. ★

In MATTHEW, we read:

Baptize them **in the name of the Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Spirit**.
Matthew 28:19b (GW)

(In these verses, some translations may say, "baptize *into* the name...")

In ACTS, we read:

... baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ** ...
Acts 2:38b (GW); also Acts 10:48.

... baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus**.
Acts 19:5b (GW); also Acts 8:16.

[REFERRING TO JESUS] → ... **the Righteous One** ... Get up and be baptized, ... **calling on his name**.
Acts 22:14b, 16b (CSB)

BAPTIZED INTO WHO'S NAME?

The only thing that seems definite is that the "name" had to do with God/Jesus.

- Baptism was **NOT** done in the name of a human!

⇒ All Scripture passages that describe the "name" refer to God or Jesus; none point to people. As Paul said...

Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius [and the household of Stephanas – v. 16], for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

1 Corinthians 1:13b-15 (NLT)

>> THIS IS BECAUSE <<

⇒ We are to follow **GOD/JESUS, not PEOPLE!**

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THE "NAMES" THAT ARE THE FOCUS OF OUR BAPTISM:**BAPTIZED IN/INTO GOD'S NAME...**

- This focuses in our relationship with God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit as mentioned in Matthew 28:19). We are no longer God's enemies, but have been adopted into his family (Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 4:17; 1 John 3:1-3). But this is true only because of our union with Christ.

BAPTIZED IN/INTO JESUS' NAME...

- It symbolizes our union with him. We are "in" him (and he "in" us).
- Among other things, it shows a very close relationship between Jesus and us (his disciples). We accept everything that Scripture says about him – who he is, what he has done, etc. He is our leader; we want to follow him and learn from him. He has first place in our lives.

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BAPTISM IN THESE "NAMES" IMPLIES OBLIGATIONS ON OUR PART.

- It's not just a focus on *facts* about God/Jesus. It's also about our relationship to him.

- ✓ I accept what the Bible says.
- ✓ I accept God/Jesus for who he is.
- ✓ I have chosen to follow him.
- ✓ I reject my former way of life.
- ✓ I trust him and I rely on him – for my salvation, as well as for knowing how to live my daily life.

These names have a significance that goes far beyond baptism.

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WHO JESUS IS – HIS "NAME" – IS TO INFLUENCE ALL OF LIFE!

- **In his name**, we are to tell others the Good News (Acts 9:27-28; even when people try to stop us – Acts 5:40); and preach repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47).
- **In his name**, we are washed, made holy, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11); we believe in his name (John 1:12; 2:23; etc.); we receive life (John 20:31); we have hope (Matthew 12:21).
- **In his name**, God's people meet together (1 Corinthians 5:4); we are to give thanks (to the Father) for all things (Ephesians 5:20); we are to pray for the sick and anoint them with oil (James 5:14).
- **In his name**, evil spirits are commanded to leave (Acts 16:18); we are to avoid those who choose to ignore Paul's instructions (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

* All that we do is to be done **in his name** (Colossians 3:17). *

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WHO JESUS IS – HIS "NAME" – WILL IMPACT ALL OF ETERNITY!

The name of Jesus... something that will bring all humanity to its knees!

... so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11 (CSB)

BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

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YOUR MISSION:

Respond to the significance of his name!

Do you know the "name" of God/Jesus?

[in other words...] Do you know the significance of that "name"??




Have you proclaimed his "name" in baptism?

[in other words...] Have you publicly committed yourself to a new way of life, based on that "name"??

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If his "**name**" (⇒ its significance) *doesn't* influence the way you live, then the only thing baptism can accomplish is getting you wet.



You might as well bring a bar of soap!

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Credits (1)

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Credits (2)

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