



Edinburgh Christian Fellowship

Christian Baptism

Many who confess Jesus Christ today as their Saviour and Lord have not been baptized in water at all, supposing that fulfilling this scripture is not required of them in today's world. Unfortunately this is not true as we see Jesus Christ himself was baptized even when the prophet John the Baptist was objecting to this fulfilment of all righteousness. In Matthew 3: 13 – 17, Jesus Christ himself was baptized as our perfect example. Water baptism has been a part of the Christian Church since John the Baptist came to forerun the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. John was baptizing in the River Jordan for repentance (*Matthew 3*) and his Message was to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Jesus Christ as Lord (*Isaiah 40:3*).

It is quite clear in the scriptures that baptism is part of the great commission given to the disciples of Jesus Christ. ***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 Spirit."*** We can also see the same instructions on baptizing those that believe in Jesus Christ as their personal saviour in ***Mark 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"***. The Apostle Paul gives us insight to the meaning of this great act of faith in ***Romans 6: 3-4 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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."***

While it is now clear that every believer in Jesus Christ must be baptized, some who have desired to fulfil this instruction have been easily confused by different church teachings and doctrines which sometimes show contradiction to the bible and how this was done by the disciples and the early church. Because the teaching of their church or denomination, not having the revelation of *Acts 2:38*, considers the words of Peter as secondary to that of our Lord in *Matthew 28:29*. Jesus Himself said in *Matthew 4:4*, ***"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"***. Therefore are the words spoken by Peter in *Acts 2:38* contrary to what Jesus said in *Matthew 28:19*?

We can see in the bible how the disciples of Jesus obeyed this great commission as they began to preach Christ to the world. Soon after receiving the Holy Spirit we see how the subject of salvation through faith and believing in Jesus Christ was presented to the listeners. ***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 Spirit"***. From this early start the church preached Christ and made sure that all their

converts had been correctly baptized, not only in water in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ but by the Holy Spirit too. **Acts 2:41** *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls".* We can also see that in **Acts 8:16** *"... they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus".* In **Acts 8:36-38**, Philip also baptized the Ethiopian eunuch after he confessed that he believed in Jesus Christ being the Son of God. **Acts 10:47-48** *Peter answered the brethren "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."*

God's Word is not contrary within itself, yet according to men's understanding it would appear that the infallible Word of God has two opposing statements. Please consider these thoughts. There must be an answer because the Word of God is Truth (**John 17:17**) and this truth must be a revelation to you personally if you are to know the Lord Jesus Christ and be known of Him. His coming for His Church is very near. The reason sincere people are misled and in some cases confused, is that the theology of the organised churches has replaced the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit. What is the **NAME** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit? Many have been baptized in a denominational church, by sprinkling or immersion according to **Matthew 28:19**, and yet they do not know that **NAME**. Others will be considering baptism in water and you should know that **NAME** before you are baptized.

It is quite clear that the church denomination has missed the true revelation of Jesus' instructions which the Apostles understood fully and carried out without missing even anything in their teachings. As we would all know, Father is not a name; Son is not a name; Holy Spirit is not a name. Would it not be strange to sign a cheque on your bank account with the word father, son, or grandfather? You know that such a cheque would have no authority; so why would you be baptized in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit? **You may say, "Jesus said to be baptized this way and that's good enough for me."** It is true Jesus gave that commandment, and in **verse 20 of Matthew 28** confirmed that if this commandment was taught and observed He would be with us always.

Was it not the same Jesus who met Paul on the road to Damascus as the Pillar of Fire, or as the Holy Spirit filled the upper room on the day of Pentecost? (**Acts 2: 1-4**) Jesus also said in **John 14: 16-18**, *"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."* It was our Lord Jesus Christ, who had risen from the dead after being crucified, who spoke through Peter in **Acts 2: 14-36**, and the words spoken brought conviction on the hearers who had crucified Jesus, causing them to cry out, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (**Acts 2: 37**) Then in verse 38, the Lord Jesus, still speaking through Peter, said: *"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 Spirit".*

When Jesus said in **Matthew 28:19** to be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, He was speaking of the truth of the Revelation of Himself and of His name, and every born again Holy Spirit filled child of God will know their Heavenly Father's name, and be baptized in water in that name. Jesus manifested the Father's Name (**John 17: 6**). The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is the **Lord Jesus Christ**. Not by sprinkling but by immersion as Jesus was baptized, by one who has been filled with the Holy Spirit, having this revelation.

If you have been baptized in the titles, then you should be re-baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Apostle Paul came to Ephesus during his missionary journeys, he confirmed the true Christian baptism in **Acts 19:2-6** *"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 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. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve."*

Every Christian must be baptized according to **Acts 2: 38**; it is God's provided way to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Colossians 3: 17** says, *"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"*. Surely baptism is a word of confession and deed.

There is no reference in the Word of God to a trinity of persons being God. The Trinity doctrine is contrary to Scripture and is error. **John 4: 24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth". In Mark 12: 29, "The first of the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord". Also Ephesians 4: 5-6, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all".**

The trinity doctrine and baptism in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which is the basis of the first denominational church and other organised churches, came to be accepted as church doctrine about 325 A.D. at the Nicea Council, and it is suggested you confirm this in the records of this Council meeting at your library.

The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ is the rock upon which the Church, being the Body of Christ, is built (**Matthew 16: 16-18**). However, by the reasoning of men, the doctrine of a trinity of persons and baptism in the titles substituted for the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ and originated the denominational system as it is to this day.

God is a Spirit who came to redeem or reconcile to Himself those who were lost, by coming in the body of flesh and blood of His Son (**Hebrews 10:5**). The Son, as the body, was born of a virgin, as it was necessary to by - pass the original sin in the Garden of Eden, and she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit (**Luke 1:35**). Did Jesus the Son have two fathers?

The trinity and oneness doctrine are both in error. The Word of God reveals the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, and every Christian must confess that Jesus is the Son of God (**1 John 4:15**).

Jesus the Son was the body of tabernacle of flesh and blood in which the Father, a Spirit, dwelt or was revealed. This does not make Jesus the Son a second part of a trinity of persons, but a manifestation of God (**John 1:1 and 14**). The body of flesh and blood was our sacrifice that through this blood we may boldly come into His Presence (**Hebrews 10:19**), and know Him, and be in Him. **1 John 5:20, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."**

The Bible says clearly that God was made flesh and dwelt among us, and Jesus the Son said in **John 14:7**, speaking to His disciples, **"If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him."**

If they had known Jesus! Did they know Him? Of course they knew Him, but they only knew Him as a man, not having the revelation of God a Spirit being revealed in flesh and blood. **As Jesus said, "If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also,"** and not only known the Father but would have seen the Father. It is this revelation that God a Spirit came in the body of flesh and blood of the Son that Christ's Church is built upon, and every born again son and daughter must have this revelation to be with the Lord at His coming

John 14:16-20 confirms the same truth when Jesus was speaking about the Comforter, which was the manifestation of God to and in the believers, after the body of flesh and blood of the Son had passed through Calvary to redeem us. The Comforter at that time had not come, but Jesus said they knew Him! Why? Because Jesus was the Holy Spirit; the Comforter revealed in flesh and blood: but after Calvary He would come to them and be in them.

This tract is not intended to cover everything that could be said concerning the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ and His name as referred in the Scriptures, but rather to awaken your attention to the error of the trinity doctrine and baptism in trinity titles, that you may search the Word of God and see that these things be so. (**Acts 17:11**)

May the Lord God Almighty reveal to you the Revelation of Himself and His name, the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 17:3** says, **"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou has sent."**

Jesus further said in **Matthew 24:44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh",** and if you have not been baptized in Christian baptism according to the Word of God and you desire to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, may you prayerfully wait upon the Lord and be baptized according to **Acts 2:38**.

Visit us at:

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