WHY BE BAPTIZED?

John 4:1&2 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John – although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

Baptism in the Gospels

The ministry of John the Baptist and his Baptism of Jesus are the only two events mentioned in all four Gospels before the feeding of the 5,000 and the Triumphal Entry which comes a full year later.

Mark 1:1-3 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” – “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ “

Mark 1:4&5And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Luke 3:7-9 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Acts 19:4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the World!”

John 1:35&36 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

Luke 7:29&30 (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisee and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

John 4:1&2 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciple than John – although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Baptism in Acts

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The word translated “for” in the phrase “for the forgiveness of your sins” has a wide range of meanings. It occurs at least 15 times prior to this in Acts and this is the first time it is translated “for.” Matthew 12:41 translates it “at” in the phrase “they repented at the preaching of Jonah,” where the basic meaning is “because of.”

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number.

Acts 16:31-34 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized…He had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.

Acts 18:8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

Baptism Does NOT Save

Romans 1:16&17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Who Are Proper Candidates for Baptism?

John 4:1&2 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John – although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

Matthew 28:19 “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,”

Since infants cannot repent (Acts 2:38), have not believed (Acts 18:8), can show no evidence of conversion (Matthew 3:5-12), cannot confess their sins (Mark 1:1-5) and are definitely not disciples (Matthew 28:19&20), they are not proper candidates for baptism.

What Is the Proper Method of Baptism?

The word translated “baptism” comes from the Greek word *“baptisma,”* which comes from the Greek word *“bapto,”* meaning to “dip.” John 13:26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

Leviticus 4:6 “He is to dip his finger into the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before the LORD, in front of the curtain of the sanctuary.”

The Jews used it to describe proselyte baptism, which were not considered valid unless every part of the body was touched by the water.

After Jesus was baptized, “he went up out of the water” (Matthew 3:16). John baptized at Aenon near Salim, “because there was plenty of water” (John 3:23).

Acts 8:38b&39a Then both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water,

Things to Remember

John the Baptist and Jesus made and baptized disciples.

Jesus commanded us to make disciples and baptize them.

The early church baptized those who believed the Gospel.

Baptism does not save.

Only those who have been saved are proper candidates.

The proper method of baptism is immersion.