

## CJ'S CITY – 7 MAY 2006 | BAPTISM

### INTRO:

Mrs Katie Barrett of Ipswich

18, 90, 72 years she waited

### Why look at Baptism?

Negative Reason

- Baptism is just a symbol and not for today.

Positive Reason

- John the Baptist
- Jesus Christ
- Paul the Apostle
- Disciples/Early Church
- Believers at CJ's City (Next week)

Lets look at the positive reason one by one.

### The Meaning

Today, *baptism* is most readily identified with [Christianity](#), where it symbolizes the cleansing (remission) of sins, and the union of the believer with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection so that he becomes one of [Christ's Faithful](#).<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia, Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. *Baptism* among [Christians](#) is performed by [aspersion](#) (sprinkling water over the head),

Baptism comes from a Greek word, baptidzo, which means "to dip," "to place into a liquid," to dunk, as we would say.

John the Baptism (Jordan River)

“I Baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matt.3:10-12

This passage marks the difference between symbolic Baptism and real Baptism

### **Baptism**

Is a mark of Repentance from sin

A sign of one's Confession of your sin(s)

John's Baptism does not complete the meaning of Baptism. He himself said, "...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Many understand what is meant by the Holy Spirit, but the meaning of fire has puzzled many.

### **Baptism of the Holy Spirit is (the Body of Christ):**

Our Saving Grace only comes by receiving and believing The Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, then and only then are we ready as a candidate for Baptism.

It is an outward sign of an inward work of grace. The reality and the symbol are

---

[affusion](#) (pouring water over the head) or full *immersion* (lowering the entire body into a pool of water). The choice to be baptized is made by a 'confessing believer' ([believer baptism](#), or [credobaptism](#)), regardless of age, as a 'confession' or public profession of his or her [faith in Christ](#); or on behalf of the child by his or her parents ([infant baptism](#) [paedobaptism](#)) if the parents had themselves been baptized, and professed faith. Some churches practice [credobaptism](#) and some practice [paedobaptism](#), and some churches practice both. Some practice immersion, some practice pouring, and some practice sprinkling. There are differences in views about the nature and practice of Christian baptism.

closely associated in the NT (Tit 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21, but the outward rite does not produce the inward grace. (cf. Rom 2:28-29; Eph 2:8-9; Php 3:4-9)

**Baptism of Fire is (Non-Christian):**

His **winnowing fork** is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." [Luke 3:16-18](#)

Winnowing fork or Pitch fork speaks of the judgment of God.

Christ's Baptism deals with everyone in the world, without exception.

**In Acts 1:4,5,8**

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In a few days the Holy Spirit was poured and the body of Christ was formed.

So that is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It is to form the body of Christ by introducing every individual believer into that body. Now, admittedly, this is a metaphorical body---not a physical body but a spiritual one. Yet it is a very real body.

1 Cor.12:13, is another significant passage in regards to the Baptism and membership into the Body of Christ.

For we were all baptized by<sup>[a]</sup> one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

It is possible to experience this reality without the physical symbol like the thief hanging with Jesus on Calvary.

Jesus said to him, “ Today you shall be with me in paradise.”

Why Baptism?

Jesus commanded it

The Apostles and the early Church practiced it.

Matt.28:18-20

That should be enough, shouldn't it?

Paul was baptized and he baptized some, the NT Church practiced it.

The church has been given two symbolic rites:

- Baptism
- The Lord's supper.

The Lord's supper is but a symbol of an inner reality, just as is water baptism.

Yet very few have ever taken the position that the church should not observe the table of the Lord together.

All of us who have done so have found that it is very instructive and profitable to take the bread and drink the cup, and to meditate upon their meaning.

Baptismal Focus:

- Introduction to the Body of Christ
- Understanding the meaning of membership in the Church
- New Atmosphere and new realm of living
- New Life

Paul speaks about this in Romans 6:4 when he says,

"We were buried with Christ by baptism into death [of course, he is really speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but he includes the

symbol of water as well] in order that we might rise to walk in newness of life."

Therefore, this is what baptism means.

It is your testimony to everyone that you have actually taken, by your inner commitment, the step of renouncing your old life of self-centeredness and, in response to the invitation of the Lord Jesus, having joined yourself to him, you have begun to follow him in the fullness of strength which he provides.

Therefore you rise to walk in newness of life.

### **How about Infant Baptism?**

*I do not think you can find a single verse in the New Testament which even suggests that it is proper. Baptism is an expression of faith by the individual. It cannot, therefore, be practiced by an infant who is incapable of expressing any faith of his own. Only the baptism of believers is authorized in the Bible.*

### **How about those who argue the link with circumcision?**

Yes circumcision was a mark of belonging in the OT times but those who tried to reproduce Circumcision, the Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, and Anglican need to hear the words of the Apostle Paul and the entire New Testament shows that there is no basis for this teaching at all.

“**12**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.

**13**And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

**14**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross..." Col.2:12-14

### **The Mode of Baptism**

Is it aspersion (Sprinkling)?, or  
Affusion (Pouring)?

According to the New Testament it is neither!

### **Immersion is the only Biblical Mode?**

John Baptized in the Jordan River (Jesus went up out of the water, Matt.3:16)

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:24-39

**34**The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

**35**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

**36**As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"<sup>[a]</sup> **38**And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **39**When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Baptism is not offered in Scriptures as an option as to whether it is by sprinkling, pouring or immersion. At all times Baptism must be observed by immersion and not by pouring or sprinkling.

Baptism is not for all. There must first be a profession of faith on the part of an individual that he or she has trusted completely in the atoning death, burial and

resurrection of the Messiah (Christ);

There must also be a definite commitment to our LORD as the redeemer of our soul, i.e. you must receive Y'shua (Jesus) as LORD. In The Gospel according to John we read in Chapter One and verse 12 the following, "But as many as received Him, to them gave

He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:", did you notice that Baptism is nowhere in sight in this Scripture, and the reason is, that Baptism does not save anyone. We are saved by 'receiving' and 'believing' on His Name, that is, Y'shua (Jesus). Now you are ready for Baptism by immersion.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Baptism does have meaning.

It is a witness, a testimony to the world, that you have moved into a new life with Jesus Christ.

Just as a wedding ring is a continual symbol to people of a choice you once made, so baptism remains a symbol for all the world to see, that you have cut yourself off from the old life in Egypt and moved into the life of fellowship with the New Moses, our living Lord.