

# THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT TRADITION

## Water Baptism



It was forty years ago that I made a serious, conscious decision to become a Christian. After spending the first twenty years of my life in congregations trying to figure out the traditions of men, God one day opened my understanding to the truth concerning Salvation. And even today, I am amazed at what He showed me! What it all boils down to is that there is *simplicity* in serving Christ, for those who are willing to obey Him! Even pertaining to repentance and water baptism (the first steps towards conversion and covenant with Christ), the fact is, if you desire to know truth, He will reveal truth... then it just becomes a matter of simple obedience!

**Truth . Tradition .  
Necessary .  
Optional .  
Command . Choice .  
Salvation .  
Symbolic . Dip .  
Immerse . Sprinkle .  
Pour . Adult . Child .  
Infant ???**

In 1980, after receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I was told that I needed to be water baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ”. At the time, I really did not understand the significance of using His name for baptism, but I could clearly see the five examples of water baptism in the Scriptures. So, I had to make a choice... would I be obedient or not? I chose to obey the Word and follow the examples of those in the early church. And when I did, the greater understanding of the reasons why came shortly thereafter. That is when I began to study the Bible for myself, in search of more truth.

The first mention of water baptism is found in the New Testament book of Matthew, chapter 3. In Matthew 3:1-17, we are introduced to the prophet, John the Baptist. John prepared the people for the coming of Jesus by preaching a message of repentance, then *baptizing them for forgiveness of their sins*, and telling them to believe in Jesus, who was to come after him; and that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Ghost (3:11). The meaning of the word baptism stems from the Greek term used in the New Testament, the verb *baptizo*, meaning “**to completely immerse under water, then immediately raise up again**”. This is the manner in which John baptized his disciples, as well as Jesus, who, “when He was baptized went up straightway out of the water” (Matthew 3:13-17).



After Jesus’ ministry on earth, His death, burial, and His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples, giving them explicit instructions with regards to how they were to continue the work He had begun; this became known as *The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20*. Among other things, *they were instructed to teach and baptize all nations “in the the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”*. So what did the disciples do? They obeyed Jesus’ commandment, based upon spiritual revelation that ***JESUS was the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!***

Does the Bible contradict itself? When you look at the accounts of water baptism given in the book of Acts, they appear to be contradictory to Matthew 28:19; for all of the examples given reveal that the Apostles baptized their converts “in the name of Jesus Christ”, not in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38-4, 8:12-16, 36-38; 10:45-48, 19:2-5). Did the Apostles of Jesus Christ disobey His commandment, or is there a lack of understanding regarding their actions? Please, read on...



For those confessing faith in Jesus Christ, we must also have faith that His Word is truth, and that He does not contradict Himself! Hebrews 11:6 says that “without faith, it is impossible to please God... (but) that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”. Consequently, further study has revealed that there is no contradiction of the Scriptures; and there is even adequate biblical support for the revelation knowledge needed for better understanding...

### **Jesus IS “*the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost*”!**

The Jewish Apostles always believed in one God and came to understand that He manifested Himself in the persons of the Godhead, as the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost (1John 5:7; Colossians 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 3:16). However, they also understood those to be *His titles, not His name. His NAME* was revealed as Jesus. And water baptism was (and is) done in His name because it is also symbolic of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, according to Romans 6.

***“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.” Romans 6:3-4***

### **How did baptizing in the TITLES, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost begin?**

Early on in my Christian walk, I was very surprised to learn that the Trinitarian Baptism in the titles was started about one hundred years after the Apostles. It was practiced by the Roman Catholic Church (Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edit., Vol. 3, pg. 365- 366) and later adopted by many Protestant groups. However, not only did these various groups deviate from the path of truth by baptizing without mentioning *the name of Jesus*, they also stopped immersing in water, and began substituting alternative methods, such as dipping, pouring, and sprinkling... not just adults, but even infants.

### **Is it acceptable to be re-baptized?**

Well, not only is it acceptable... but there is scriptural evidence which indicates that it becomes *necessary* to be baptized again, if it was not done according to the Scriptures. In Acts 19, there is the account of Paul having encountered early disciples of John and inquiring concerning how they were baptized; when they stated, “(by) John’s baptism”, *Paul baptized them again*, “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:3-5), thus fulfilling their obedience to the New Covenant.

***“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***

***“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.” Colossians 3:17***