

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
The Inspired Baptism
4/8/07

Introduction

Mark 11:27-33 (27) And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, (28) And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things? (29) And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. (30) The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me. (31) And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him? (32) But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed. (33) And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus walked sixty miles to be baptized by John the Baptist. Why did the Saviour walk past so many of the "baptistries" of the Pharisees? They could have immersed or dipped Jesus. But He did not want to be identified with their state religion and they had no authority.

In **Matthew 3:13-17** what did Jesus mean by "**becometh us to fulfill all righteousness?**" When the Lord was baptized it was not to wash away sins, He had none. Therefore, He was baptized in order to be the Head of Church, by an authorized baptism, by John the Baptist, even though John didn't fully understand why.

I. The Inspired Reason

A. The inspired ordinance of Baptism was designed by God to help the new believer separate themselves from Egypt and identify with true believers. **I Corinthians 10:1-4.** When you leave Egypt, you must go through the Red Sea.

B. Baptism is also a picture of the death and burial of Jesus. The Jordan River signifies death; to cross over the Jordan you had to die to self.

C. Putting on the uniform or identity gives a sense of belonging.

D. Baptism makes you a member of the church. **Acts 2:41**

E. It begins a habit of obedience **Matthew 28:19-20.** Enroll in Jesus' classroom.

F. It also begins a relationship with the New Testament Church and fellow believers baptized under its' authority.

II. The Inspired Requirements

A. The proper candidate must first be a born again believer. Examples include the Ethiopian Eunuch in **Acts 8** and the Philippian jailor in **Acts 16**. Did Jesus save the Samaritan woman, the blind man, the palsied man, or the dying thief? The last had no chance to be baptized, but the Bible records none of their baptisms. Assuredly, the others later got baptized. But, baptism does not save! **I Corinthians 1:13-18**. Baptism follows belief.

B. The proper mode is immersion **Matthew 3:16** and **Acts 8:38-39**. Baptism is a burial not a dusting, a resurrection, not a facial. **Romans 6:5** "planted" means to be placed under (water), not sprinkled.

C. The proper design of baptism is a picture, a symbolic burial, a likeness, again as in **Romans 6** and **I Peter 3:21**. The water cannot wash away sin; it is not a sacrament.

D. The proper authority was recognized by Jesus in John the Baptist, and the early church, the apostles, had John's baptism **Acts 1:22**. The great commission includes the authority to baptize. The Holy Spirit leads one to scriptural baptism and to scriptural churches **I Corinthians 12:13**. Never do we read where the Church replaced John's Baptism.

III. The Inspired Responsibility

A. **Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism**. If we contend for the faith, we should also contend for the one true baptism.

B. **Jude 3 ... earnestly contend...**

C. Paul was an Anabaptist who shunned alien baptism **Acts 19:1-5**. They were not previously saved.

D. The authority to baptize is entrusted to the Church **John 3:22-4:2**

Conclusion

Do we recognize Catholic baptism? No. Do we recognize Protestant baptism? No, since it came from the RCC. What about community or non-denominational churches? They are the same as a Christian bookstore or Pat Boone, no authority. What about "baptistic churches?" Again there is no authority, just like Baptist churches that relax their stand and receive members with non-Baptist baptism. Without being legalistic, once the door is

opened and standards relaxed on baptism, other convictions will slacken and eventually the candlestick will be gone.

It all gets back to authority. Those who are not decisive and like to reason will have trouble submitting to the right baptism!