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# WHAT IS BAPTISM?

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"BAPTIZE" IS NOT AN ENGLISH WORD. It is a Greek word lifted out of the Greek text and inserted into our English Bibles. Other Greek words were translated into English; that is, their meanings in Greek language translated into the English meaning. But the word "baptize" was not translated, but "transliterated" instead. They simply spelled out the Greek word in characters of the English alphabet.

**Original Word - Βαπτισω**

**Transliterated Word - BAPTIZE**

**Translated Word - Immerse**

Most religious people think that Baptism can refer to either immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. But there is a different Greek words for each of these terms. Only immersion is the proper translation for the Greek word "baptism." The other two words are not even close to this word. Wherever these last two words are found in the New Testament, they are translated. But "Baptizo" is never translated. What explanation can be given for this irregular procedure on the part of the translators of the Bible?

## **A BRIEF REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY**

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1. For many centuries only immersion was practiced.
2. Sprinkling was introduced initially only as a convenience for the terminally ill and even this was met with great opposition by most in the church. (251 A.D.)
3. It was not until the fourteenth century that the Roman Catholic Church authorized sprinkling or pouring as substitutes for the act of immersing. (1311 A.D.)
4. The Greek Orthodox Church which split from the Roman church in 1054 A.D. continued to use immersion.
5. The Church of England broke away from Rome in the 16th century and also adopted sprinkling. (1540 A.D.) It was during this time that an English translation of the Bible was authorized by "The most High and Mighty Prince James, King of Great Britain, France, Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. (see the preface in King James Version Bibles). By this time (1611 A.D.) the majority of religious people were being sprinkled instead of immersed. To translate the Greek word Baptizo would have been extremely embarrassing and offensive to the dignitaries of both church and state, the church of England being the official state church. Thus the true meaning of Baptizo was obscured by transliteration.
6. For some reason future translations have also kept this practice. There are exceptions. One denomination determined to make a translation of the N.T. and translate the word instead of transliterate the word. Shortly after they did this someone pointed out that they had taken there name out fo the Bible. They were promptly taken up. Few remain to this day. There are some others but none are in print today.

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## **WHAT CAN BE WRONG WITH A PERSON'S BAPTISM?**

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### **AUTHORITY:**

Paul said that all things need to be done by the authority of Christ (Col 3:17). Jesus said in Matt 28:18, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth". Being baptized by the authority or name of Paul would have not made one a Christian (1 Cor 1:12-12). What happens when one is baptized in the name of Christ?

- 1) They are baptized into the death of Christ (Rom 6:3-4)
- 2) They are raised to walk in newness of life (Rom 6:3-4)
- 3) They are baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27)
- 4) They put on Christ (Gal 3:26-27)
- 5) They are baptized into ONE body (1 Cor 12:13; Eph 1: 22-23)

**BUT THERE IS NO AUTHORIZATION FOR ONE TO BE BAPTIZED INTO A DENOMINATIONAL BODY.** Denominations most of the time require a person to be baptized to enter their religious body, it is not required to enter Christ.

### **SUBJECT:**

According to Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, and Acts 8:37, those who were to be baptized were lost, had been taught, believed, were able to confess, and repent. Many who have been "baptized" have been sprinkled as an infant at a decision of their parents. Denominational bodies will baptize only what they consider to be "saved" individuals. They want to bury those they consider to be alive spiritually, where the Bible teaches that dead people are to be baptized (Rom 6:3-4, 6,7).

### **CONFESSION:**

According to Romans 10:9-10 we are to confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That is the confession made by the man of Ethiopia (Acts 8:37). Some denominations require a confession of a particular creed. Some are told to confess before they are baptized, "God for Christ sake hath saved me".

### **ACTION:**

Scriptural baptism is "going down into the water" (Acts 8:37) and it is a burial (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12). Try and substitute the words sprinkle or pour for the word baptism and see if it makes sense. The Greek word BAPTIZO, if translated, would be immerse.

### **PURPOSE:**

Peter said baptism was for the "remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Jesus said if we believed and were baptized then "we shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Peter said in his first epistle (3:21), that "baptism doth also now save us". Paul said we are baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27). Even though you might have been immersed religiously, it might have been for the wrong purpose because most denominational bodies baptize "into that denomination" and it is to show that one is already saved.

### **ORDER:**

Many follow this order; belief, salvation, Baptism. Check Mark 16:16, see the order the Lord gave.

### **NAME:**

When most people are baptized they are then bound and begin to wear some denominational name. When you get through you belong to some human-organization. Scriptural baptism binds one to a divine name (1 Cor 1:12-13). By being baptized we have endorsed and obeyed a divine message (Mark 16:15-16), we have entered a divine organization (John 3:5, 1 Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27).



# TO PLEASE GOD

## PROPER OBEDIENCE REQUIRES:

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### PROPER MOTIVES

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Isaiah 29

13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, (NKJV)

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### PROPER UNDERSTANDING

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Acts 19

1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples

2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (NKJV)

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### PROPER ACTION

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**David and the ark** 1 Chronicles 13

1 Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.

2 And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us;

3 "and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul."

7 So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

8 Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

9 And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

10 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

11 And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day.

12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

13 So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

14 The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had. (NKJV)

1 Chronicles 15

2 Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."

12 He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it.

13 "For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

## **THIRTEEN REASONS FOR BEING BAPTIZED**

1. TO FLEE THE WRATH OF GOD (MATT 3:7; 2 THESS 1:8)
2. TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD (GAL 3:26-27; JOHN 3:5)
3. TO ENTER INTO CHRIST (GAL 3:26-27; ROM 6:3-4)
4. TO HAVE OUR SINS REMITTED (ACTS 2:38)
5. TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 2:38)
6. TO WASH AWAY SINS (ACTS 22:16)
7. TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD AS JUST (LUKE 7:29)
8. TO ACCEPT THE COUNSEL OF GOD (LUKE 7:30)
9. TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST'S DEATH (ROM 6:3,10-11)
10. TO BE RESURRECTED TO A NEW LIFE (ROM 6:4)
11. TO BE SAVED (1 PETER 3:20-21)
12. TO BE ADDED TO CHRIST CHURCH (ACTS 2:41,47; 1 COR 12:13)
13. TO OBEY HIS COMMANDS (ACTS 10:48)