



EARLY CHURCH CONVERSIONS
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS



A STUDY ON:


BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME

- Baptism In Jesus' Name -


A. Scriptural Support for Baptism in Jesus' NAME

The early church always baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. That is the only way that it was done. The following verses offer sound scriptural support for baptism in the name of the Lord.

Colossians 3:17 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.

 The Bible instructs us to do ALL in the saving name of Jesus. Baptism is no exception.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

 The apostle Paul is writing to the church—to those who have already been saved through the new birth. He says that they are washed, sanctified, and justified in the NAME of Jesus. How? The Bible tells us that sins are remitted or washed away through BAPTISM in the name of Jesus Christ.


Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

 The NAME of Jesus SAVES us! Jesus is the only SAVING NAME. We must use it in baptism! The apostles did!

Philippians 2:9-10

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

 This passage of Scripture tells us that the NAME of Jesus is above every name. In every instance the apostles applied the NAME of Jesus Christ at the time of baptism. (See Acts 2; 8; 10; 19.)

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

📖 Jesus clearly instructed His disciples to baptize using the NAME (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost—which IS Jesus Christ. “Father,” “Son,” and “Holy Ghost” are not names—they are titles. The disciples clearly understood that Jesus is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. (See Isaiah 9:6; John 14:7-11, 17-18; 1 Timothy 3:16; John 10:30.)

Not believing in the name of Jesus is a very serious offense according to the following scripture:

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

📖 Jesus said that people would be condemned because they refused to believe in His NAME.

B. Historical Evidence of Baptism in Jesus' NAME

Baptism has always been administered in the name of Jesus Christ by the true Apostolic Church, but it was changed to the titles “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost” by the Catholic Church in the second century. This false practice spread and was adopted by Protestant churches as well as other religious groups. The following historical evidence proves that the original baptismal formula established by Jesus was changed:

Britannica Encyclopædia, vol. 3, p. 82.

“Everywhere in the oldest sources it states that baptism took place in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Britannica Encyclopædia, 11th ed. vol. 3, pp. 365-366.

“The baptismal formula was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son, & Holy Ghost by the Catholic Church in the second century.”

Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion, vol. 2, p. 377.

“Christian baptism was administered using the words ‘In the name of Jesus.’”

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge (1957) vol. 1, p. 435.

“The New Testament knows only baptism in the name of Jesus . . . which still occurs even in the second and third centuries.”

Is baptism required for salvation? Yes.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 3:20-21

²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

²¹ The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Did the apostles baptize in the name of Jesus? Yes.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

There are two parts to the biblical plan of salvation: God's part and our part. Jesus Christ died for our sins; His part is finished. Now it's our turn! We need to obey the plan of salvation. God has not changed the plan—it is still Acts 2:38! Have you considered where you will spend eternity? Do you want to be saved?

Is the promise of salvation for everyone? Yes, including you!

Acts 2:38-39

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.