



Pastor Scott Velain

Baptism Do's and Don'ts

It seems that over the past several years, we continuously receive letters and emails concerning baptism, and what it means. There seems to be a great confusion within the Christian community concerning baptism. Our brothers and sisters are always asking questions like, “*do I really need to be baptized?*” Or “*can I be baptized a second time?*”, or, “*Whose name should I really be baptized into?*”, “*Where do I go to be baptized?*”, “*Who do I need to be baptized by?*”, “*Can I baptize my children, or can I baptize my husband, or wife?*”. We even get questions about how to perform a proper “*baptism*”. And so there seems to be much confusion among the Christian population concerning the act of baptism. And so, today were going to concentrate on removing that confusion, and replacing it with the correct understanding that comes directly from our God breathed Scriptures.

And before we begin, I just want to emphasize the fact that we will not be talking about any so-called “*church fathers*” idea about what baptism is. We will not be talking about a denominational dogma, or a doctrine of men, or what some counsel, or brick and mortar institution has to say about the matter. We will be going directly to our God breathed Scripture to find the answers to these questions so that we may know that these answers are the answers that the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son want us to have. And so, we will be leaving they wisdom of men behind, and searching through the Scriptures to obtain the answers that can only truly be found within the Scriptures.

And for those of you who might be new to this ministry, I will simply forewarn you that we are not bound by any denominational doctrines, or dogmas, or philosophical understandings. We are not bound by any papal bull, nor are we bound by any government contracts, councils of men, brick and mortar institutions, or empires of dirt. We are bound by what is written within the pages of our God breathed the Scriptures, and our God breathed the Scriptures alone. And so, if you are looking for a particular denominational doctrine, dogma, theological understanding, or philosophical teaching... You're in the wrong place. And so, with that being said... let's dig into what our God breathed Scriptures say, and just as importantly... what they do not say. Let us begin with Matthew chapter 28 verses 18 through 20:

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As we begin our study into the act of baptism, I want us to understand very clearly, that baptism is a commandment that comes directly from the red-letter words of our Messiah. What this means is, that these words came from the very mouth, the very tongue, the very breath of our beloved Messiah. And I want us to notice that he did not say “*be baptized if you want to.*” He did not say “*don’t worry about being baptized because that’s works.*” He did not say that “*works are dead, so don’t worry about it.*” That my friends is a lie that comes straight from the devil’s mouth.

From time to time we will hear the argument being made that says, “*but he was only talking to the apostles back then.*” But I would submit to you, that he was not speaking only to the apostles back then. Let’s turn to Matthew chapter 10 verses 37 through 39:

Mat 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

I want us to notice what our Messiah says in Matthew chapter 10 verse 38 with his own breath, with his own tongue, and in his own red-letter words. He says, and I quote... “*And whoever does not take his cross and follow me, is not worthy of me.*” Our Messiah says very clearly, that whoever does not take his cross and follow him is not worthy of him, and I want us to also read first John chapter 2 versus four through six:

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

I want us to understand, that anyone who says that they know our Messiah... but does not keep his commandments... is a liar. Not only are they a liar... but the truth is not even in them. Only the one who keeps his word... get that my friends... only the one who keeps his word... truly has the love of God in them and is perfected. In fact, keeping his word is how we know that we are in him. How profound is that? I want us to stop and think about that for just a moment. How do we know that we are in him? Because we are driven to keep his word. By this we may know that we are in him. And let’s not forget verse six... “*Whoever says he abides in him, ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*” Can you get any plainer than that? “*Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*”

Baptism has nothing to do with whether or not you feel like it or not. The red letter commanded words of baptism are not up for discussion. The red letter commanded words of baptism are not toys for man to play with. The red letter commanded words of baptism were not given to the denominational charters of men, or their early church fathers. The red letter commanded words of baptism were not given to councils of men, or their brick-and-mortar institutions, or their Roman Catholic vicar of Christ, or the Vatican. The red letter commanded words of baptism were given to us. They were given directly to those who would hear them and do them. Because it is we who keep his word that truly have the love of God perfected in us. And this is the very way that we know that we are in him.

What today's modern day Christian denominational charters of men have forgotten... is that there are all kinds of works. There are good works according to our Father and his only begotten son, and then there are evil works that have nothing to do with our Father and his only begotten son. Too many would be modern-day professing Christians wrongly, and yet so proudly proclaim, works are that works are dead. They will wrongly proclaim that they don't have to do anything because Jesus did it all for them at the cross. But you see that's not what the true Messiah ever said. That's not what our Yeshua who is the only begotten son of God... a Jew, who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah... ever said. Our Messiah said and I quote, "*he who does not pick up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*" In other words, if we do not follow him down into that grave... then we are not worthy of him.

In the book of John, we see an instance where a Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus actually comes to sit down and talk with our Messiah. And this Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus wanted to know more about who this man called "Yeshua" truly was. This Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus knows and understands that Yeshua could not possibly do the things that he was doing unless God was with him. And so, I want us to listen into this conversation between this Pharisee and our Messiah, and I want us to hear exactly what our Messiah tells this Pharisee. We can find this conversation in John chapter 3 versus one through seven:

Joh 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

Joh 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is

spirit.

Joh 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

I want us to pay particularly close attention to verse five. *“Jesus answered, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”* Now I want us to just stop here for a moment and think about that red-letter statement. I cannot tell you how many pastors that I have heard, try to squirm and twist their way out of this Scripture. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard pastors twist and turn themselves into knots and attempt to do all kinds of theological gymnastics to try to escape these very red-letter words.

Now don't know about you my friends, but when my Messiah says that you must be born of both the water and the spirit or you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven... that means more to me than what any pastor, priest, Bishop or Pope might ever say to me. When my own Messiah, who was beaten, punched, whipped, slapped, spit on, bruised and scourged for my iniquity... tells me in his own red-letter words that I must be baptized in both the water and the spirit, or I cannot enter the kingdom of heaven... I'm sorry... but you can keep your theological doctrines, and your philosophical understandings, and your papal Bulls to yourself. You can go find pastors all day long who will preach what makes you feel good in your wicked human heart, and you can whore after your own heart and wander off into myths if you choose to. But as for me and my house, we will serve our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son who is our King, our Lord, our master, and our Messiah.

After what our Messiah did for us, we have no right... let me say that again... we have no right, to twist or turn, or negate, or nail to the cross, or throw to the ground, or disrespect his red-letter words. And if you think you do have the right, and you think you are above his red-letter words, let me tell you something my friend... you are sadly mistaken. And as a pastor, I know that I personally cannot sentence anyone to heaven or to hell, but I can certainly tell you what the red-letter words of our Messiah say, and I can certainly tell you that according to our Messiah, if you are not borne of both the water and the spirit... and I quote... *“You cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

I reserve the right for my Messiah to judge each and every man because that is his place and his place alone to decide who does, and who does not enter his kingdom, but I will certainly not agree with anyone who goes directly against the red letter words of my Messiah and tells people that they don't have to be baptized because that's works, and works are dead. If that's what some man has handed you... you need to know and understand that what that man has handed you is a burning hot coal, and that burning hot coal comes straight out of the Lake of fire. That doctrine is a doctrine of demons, created by demons and the Father of all lies and should never come out of the mouth of a true God-fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christian.

It never ceases to amaze me the audacity... the utter gall... the vanity... and the indignant self-glorification of men who think that they have a right to speak things that are in direct opposition to our Messiah's red-letter words. The audacity and the ignorance of these men knows no

bounds. The self-loathing glorification of their own words condemns them. They walk back and forth across huge stages dressed in their three-piece suits, carrying their patent leather Bibles, with their hundred-dollar haircuts and kindly smiles.. all the while proclaiming the truth of God's word to be of no effect. Is it any wonder why our Messiah told the pastors, priests, bishops, and popish leaders of his time... that they were to fold children of hell, and children of the devil himself?

He who is not baptized in both the water and the spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God. Now if you're dumb deaf and blind, you may have an excuse as to why you cannot understand that very simple red-letter statement. But short of that, we have no excuse. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* ... Says our Messiah. Now let me go back to the dumb deaf and blind here for just a moment. Does our Messiah ever tell us about the dumb deaf and blind? You bet he does. Are there dumb deaf and blind people in the world today according to our Messiah? You bet there is! All we have to do is turn back to his red-letter words found in Matthew chapter 13 versus 10 through 16:

Mat 13:10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Mat 13:12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Mat 13:13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."

Mat 13:15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

Mat 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

What was it that our Messiah said he was quoting from Isaiah? *"You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive? For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart, and turn and I would heal them."* If you are born dumb deaf and blind, then you may have an excuse. But short of that my friends, if you have chosen consciously to ignore the red-letter words of your Messiah... and you have rejected the truth of his red-letter words, and traded them for the wisdom of men, or so that you can be a card-carrying ABC denominational pastor, or belong to some denominational country club... then you have no excuse. You have been found weighed

and wanting, and your place in the Lake of fire has been reserved for you and your children and your children's children whom you have taught the very same wicked doctrines to. You have dug yourself a whole, and the deeper you dig it, the less chance you have of getting out of it.

What many modern-day professing Christians fail to realize, is that there is a difference between unrighteous works, and righteous works. The Christian church today has moved from being the church of Jesus Christ... to being the church of Paul. And because they do not understand the words of the apostle Paul, they therefore do not understand the gospel of the apostle Paul. I want us to understand the warning that the apostle Peter gave us concerning the writings of the apostle Paul. Let's turn to second Peter chapter 3 versus 15 through 18:

2Pe 3:15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

2Pe 3:16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

I want us to notice here that Peter says that the writings of the apostle Paul are hard to understand, and he tells us that the ignorant and the unstable would twist the writings of the apostle Paul to their own destruction as they do the other Scriptures. Peter continues on to warn us in verse 17, and he says because you know this, you need to be careful so that you're not swept away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. And I want us to understand what the apostle Peter tells us in verse 18. He tells us to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua Hamashiach. He does not say to grow in the grace and the knowledge of what we think, the apostle Paul says.

Here's a slide that I'd like you to take a look at:



The Biblical Definition Of: Works



Pauls

Unrighteous Works:

- **Rom 3:28** Faith apart from works of law.
 - **Romans 4:2**
Abraham not justified by works.
 - **Romans 11:6**
By grace, not works.
 - **Romans 3:20**
No one is justified by works of the law.
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- **Rom 3:31** We uphold the law.
 - **Rom 2:13**
Not the hearers but the doers.

James

Righteous Works:

- **James 2:17** Faith with out works is dead.
- **James 2:21**
Abraham is justified by works.
- **James 2:24**
Justified by works, not just faith.
- **James 2:26**
Faith with out works is dead.

I want us to notice in Romans chapter 3 verse 28 that Paul talks about Faith apart from the works of the law, but James chapter 2 verse 17 says that faith without works is dead. So, what was Paul talking about in Romans three: 28? Paul was talking to the Pharisees who believed that it was the law by itself that saved them. Paul was simply telling the Pharisees that if they were keeping the law without faith in their Messiah... then their works were dead. Why? Because the works of the law by itself... is not what saves you. They were putting the horse before the cart. You must first have faith in your Messiah and believe that he is who he says he is and that he did what you saw him do... then once you have faith... your works become a work of love. Works without faith are indeed dead, and that's exactly what James the brother of our Messiah tells us in James chapter 2 verse 17. But you must also have works along with your faith. In James chapter 2 verse 24 James clearly tells us that a person is justified by works, and not by faith alone. In James chapter 2 verse 22 James tells us that faith was completed by Abraham's works. In other words, faith apart from works is useless... just like works apart from faith is useless.

In Romans chapter 4 verse two, Paul says that Abraham was not justified by works. What was Paul talking about? He's trying to convey to the Pharisees that Abraham was not only justified because he kept the law of God. Abraham was justified because he kept the laws of God and had faith at the same time. You cannot just keep the law separate and apart from faith. Faith must be what drives you to keep the law. The love of God must be what drives you to keep his commandments. Anything short of this is null and void. James chapter 2 verse 21 clearly tells us that Abraham was justified by his works when he offered Isaac up on the altar. Why? Because putting his only son up on that altar proved to God, that Abraham had faith in God. Abraham

loved God more than he loved his own Son. “He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Those are red letter words that come directly from our Messiah found in Matthew chapter 10 verses 37 and 38.

Paul says in Romans chapter 3 verse 20 that no one is justified by the works of the law. And this is true because if you’re keeping the works of the law... without faith in your Messiah... then your works are of no effect. But if you have faith in your Messiah, and you are keeping his law out of love... then your faith is complete. James chapter 2 verse 26 tells us very clearly that just as the body apart from the spirit is dead... so also faith apart from works is dead. You must have them both. You can’t have either or. The biblical definition of the love of God can be found in first John 5:3, and the biblical definition, of the love of God tells us in first John chapter 5 verse three... and I quote... *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not a burden to us.”* The apostle Paul tells us very clearly in Romans chapter 3 verse 31 that our faith does not overthrow the law. The apostle Paul also tells us in Romans chapter 2 verse 13 that it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

And so, for someone to come along and say that you don’t have to be baptized because being baptized is works... is nothing more than the ramblings of a village idiot. Somewhere, a village is missing its idiot, and I do not want God’s people to become village idiots. And so, if this is the man-made theological doctrine that you have swallowed... please fast to that you can clean your bowels of the poison that you have accepted into your body. Audit your faith. Be ready to give an account for what you believe in, and make sure that you are not one of the ignorant and unstable people who twist the writings of the apostle Paul to their own destruction as they do the other Scriptures.

So now that we know and understand that baptism is indeed required according to our Messiah, we can now move on to the actual act of baptism itself. The first thing we need to understand is whose name are we to be baptized into? And to properly answer that question I would once again take us back to the red-letter words of our Messiah. In Matthew chapter 28 verse 19 our Messiah tells us in his own red-letter words to, and I quote... *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.”* Now I want us to stop right here in think for just a moment. In most other places we find the apostles seem to be baptizing in the name of Jesus. If... they were baptizing in the name of Jesus alone, this would be in direct violation of what our Messiah told them to do in Matthew chapter 28 verse 19.

Our Messiah was very clear about using the name of the Father, the name of the son, and the Ruach Hakodesh, (also known as the Holy Spirit). Now some will say that “Jesus” was the Father and the Holy Spirit, and the Son, and so the name Jesus is the only name that you really need to use. But I would submit to you my friends that our Messiah never claimed to be his Father anywhere in the Scripture. Our Messiah always claimed to be the Son of God, and not

God himself. Was the spirit of the Father in the Son? Yes, indeed he was. But we must also understand that the spirit of God is in each one of us. Does that make us God? The answer to that question is an unequivocal no. We are made in the image of God just as our Messiah was. We have the spirit of God in us, just like our Messiah did. But that does not make us God. God is God... and we are not, and this is exactly what our Messiah proclaimed. Our Messiah told us in his own red-letter words that he was and I quote... *“The Son of God”*. And I want us to understand the clear-cut differences between the Son and the Father. Let’s turn to Matthew chapter 24 verse 36:

Mat 24:36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

Are there things that the Father knows that the Son does not know? According to our Messiah in his own red-letter words the answer to that question is an unequivocal “yes!” Now if the Father and the Son are both the same being... then is our Messiah a liar when he claimed that the Father knows things that he does not know? Was he drinking too much wine when he said this? Because that’s what men will have you believe. Who is greater... the Father or the Son? According to the Son, the Father is greater than he. John chapter 14 verse 28:

Joh 14:28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Can the Son do anything of his own accord apart from the Father? And I want you to think about this question. Can the Son himself do anything on his own accord apart from the Father? According to our Messiah in his own red-letter words... the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. John chapter 5 verse 19 through 23:

Joh 5:19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Joh 5:20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

Joh 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

Joh 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

Joh 5:23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

In verse 22... who do we see here that judges mankind? Is it the Father, or the Son? I want us to read these red-letter words and I want us to know and I want us to understand that at no point in time does our Messiah ever claim to be the Father himself. Yeshua is the only begotten Son of

God who came from the loins of David his Father's servant according to second Samuel chapter 7. And so, I want us to understand that there is a difference between the Father and the Son according to the Son himself.

Now there are many other Scriptures that we can get into that talk about the Father and the Son being one, and the Father and the Son were one in mind and thought, just as we are to be one with the Father and the Son in mind and thought. But once again, I would submit to you my friends, that this does not make us God. We must understand the spiritual implications of what we are reading. God is not a man. God is a spirit. John chapter 4 verse 24:

Joh 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Yeshua our Messiah is a man. First Timothy chapter 2 versus five and six:

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

1Ti 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

The Greek word for "man" here in the Scripture is the Greek word "Anthropos" which means "human being". And so, I don't want to have us making any mistakes about what the Scripture says very plainly and very clearly. The Bible tells us where our Messiah came from in second Samuel chapter 7, and in many other places throughout our Scriptures like Deuteronomy chapter 18 versus 15 through 19 where Moses told the house of Israel very clearly that God was going to raise up a prophet **from their brothers** and that he would put his words in his mouth and that this prophet would speak to them all that God commanded, and that whoever would not listen to his words... God himself would require it of him.

There are all kinds of theological arguments about our Messiah being preexistent but we must remember is that our Messiah was the word of God made flesh, and the word of God was always with God according to the book of Genesis. The word of God was exactly that... the word of God. The word of God was what he used to speak things into creation. God's word, was always loved and cherished because the words that God spoke came from the living God. And so, we must understand that the word of God itself was indeed preexistent with God. The word of God did not become a being until the only begotten Son of God became the word of God made flesh. And why was our Messiah the word of God made flesh? Because he lived the word of God... just as we are to live the word of God. We need to also be... the word of God made flesh, just as our Messiah was the word of God made flesh. We are all living breathing priests of God the Father according to our Scripture. And that my friends, is another lesson that we don't have time for, but I challenge you to seek these things out.

My point in all of this is that when I baptize someone I always use the name of the Father, and the name of the Son, and the Ruach Hakodesh, which is the Holy Spirit of God just as I have been commanded by my Messiah, who told me very clearly in his own red-letter words, that he

was the Son of God, and not God himself. When I baptize a person, these are the exact words that I will use: “I now baptize you, (and I will recite the person’s name)... In the name of the Father Yahovah, and in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach his only begotten Son, and his Ruach Hakodesh. And I then fully immerse them into the watery grave of baptism, and then raise them up a new creature. By doing this, I have covered every commandment that my Messiah has required of me, and I have left nothing undone.

Many people will ask “*well then why is it written that the apostles baptized in the name of Jesus?*” And my reply to them is simply this... baptism was going on long before our Messiah commanded us to be baptized. In fact, the baptism of John was a very different kind of baptism. The baptism of John was done for the remission of sins. The name of the Father was always used in everything that the Jewish people did because they knew full well that he was there God. And so, when John came baptizing, he was baptizing them in the name of the Father for the remission of their sins. That’s why they were being baptized... to repent of their sins and please their Father. So, the name of the Father was already being used. The only new name that they needed to remember was the name of Yeshua (Jesus). We must remember that the baptism of John was a different baptism than the baptism of our Messiah. Even John himself proclaimed that another would come that would baptize them not just with water... but with fire (which was a prelude to the Ruach Hakodesh, (also known as the Holy Spirit) of God). Let’s turn to Matthew chapter 3 verse 11:

Mat 3:11 “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 fire.

It’s important that we understand the water baptism of John, versus the Holy Spirit baptism of our Messiah. One was a water baptism of repentance in the name of God the Father, and the other was a baptism of the Holy Spirit that symbolized the new follower of our Messiah as someone who was willing to even follow our Messiah down into the grave. John chapter 1 versus 28 through 34:

Joh 1:28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Joh 1:30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

Joh 1:31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water; that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Joh 1:32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

Joh 1:33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

Joh 1:34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

There are a few things that I want us to notice in this Scripture. Number one, according to John chapter 1 verse 31, John came baptizing with water in the name of the Father, in order to prepare Israel for their coming Messiah. He was telling the House of Israel to repent of their sins. He was preparing the way for their coming Messiah. Something else very revealing that I want us all to see is found in verse 33. John says and I quote "*I myself did not know him*". So, in other words, John did not know Yeshua. But he did know the Father. John clearly says in the same sentence and I quote "*he who sent me to baptize with water said to me,*" and so here we have John telling us very clearly that there is a distinction between the Father and the Son. He clearly tells us that he did not know the Son. And notice what the Father reveals to John in the rest of verse 33... the Father tells John and I quote "*he on whom you see the spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.*" So, the Father has to give John some instructions so that John would know who his Son was. And what does John say in verse 34? He says and I quote "*and I have seen and have borne witness that this is the son of God.*" Why? Because John saw the Holy Spirit descending upon Yeshua from heaven when John baptized Yeshua. And John heard the Father speaking from heaven saying "*this is my Son in whom I am well pleased.*" And just so that we can all see the difference between the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit... I want us to turn to Matthew chapter 3 versus 13 through 17 :

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

Mat 3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Mat 3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Mat 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

And so, I want us to notice what we see here in Matthew chapter 3. Yeshua is standing in the River Jordan after being baptized by John. The Holy Spirit of God descends like a dove upon Yeshua. And a voice from heaven (which is the voice of the Father) clearly speaks in says "*this is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.*" And so once again we see the very distinct and separate personalities of these three beings.

My point in all of this is that everything that the Jewish people ever did was in the name of Yahovah. So, the name of Yahovah was nothing new to them. The new name that they were called upon to remember was the name of Yeshua who was the only begotten Son of God that came to pay the debt of the penalty of the law that they had broken. And so, when it is said that they baptize in the name of "*Jesus*" they were simply saying that this was the new name that needed to be included in this new baptism. There was no doubt in their minds that Yahovah was still God the Father. And just like their Messiah commanded them... there is no doubt in my

mind that they were using the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Ruach Hakodesh of God. They only mention the name “*Jesus*” because that was the new name and the equation.

Now you can argue the point either way if you choose to. But I would submit to you my friends that if you use the name of the Father, and of the Son, and his Ruach Hakodesh when you baptize, as you are commanded to baptize according to our Messiah... you simply can't go wrong. If you baptize in the name of Jesus alone, you're not obeying the red-letter words of our Messiah. As for me and my household... We will serve the Messiah. There is no point in taking shortcuts or guessing when we don't have to.

Now for those of you who were baptized in the name of Jesus only... does this mean that you have to be rebaptized? The answer to that question, I will leave it up to what the Ruach Hakodesh says to your heart. Yeshua certainly did have the spirit of his Father in heaven in him, and as we've already read in Matthew chapter 3 verse 16... our Messiah surely had the Ruach Hakodesh dwelling within him. So, when you use Yeshua's name, you could speculate... that all three persons are there... but you are not using each individual name as commanded by our Messiah.

The bottom line is that there are all kinds of ways that you can spin it. But if you're going to obey the red letter words of your Messiah, then you need to baptize in the name of the Father and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Ruach Hakodesh, and I urge you to take these things to your prayer closet alone, and to bow your head and bend your knee, and to ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach what his will is concerning your salvation.

And this brings me to the next question that we often times receive. Can I be rebaptized? Often times we have people that were sprinkled on the four head as babies, and they believe that they were baptized, or we have people who were baptized his children, but they don't really feel that they made the decision for themselves to be baptized.

The answer to both these questions is “yes you should be rebaptized.” A baby has no way of making a logical decision for themselves to follow their Messiah. My friends if I took someone down to the river and dunked them under the water and said that they were baptized against their will... are they baptized? The answer to that question is a resounding no! And this was the same argument that the Pharisees were making concerning circumcision. They were trying to force the new converts to be circumcised, and they were trying to tell them that circumcision is what saved them. Circumcision does not save you any more than baptism saves you. Neither one of these acts is valid unless you have faith, and you are driven to be both circumcised and baptized because of your love for the Father and his only begotten Son. You must first have the love of God in your heart, for both circumcision and baptism to have any effect. And this goes directly back to what James the brother of our Messiah tells us in James chapter 2 verse 17, and I quote “*so also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*”

In order for water baptism to be of any effect the person must first have faith in their Messiah.

Otherwise we Christians could attack the Jews and force them into the water to save them. But of course, we cannot do that. You must be moved towards the water by the love of God in order for that baptism to be of any effect. Let's turn to Acts chapter 2 verse 38 and 39:

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

What is Peter telling these people in verse 38? He tells them to “repent and be baptized.” How can a baby repent of their sin? Can an infant repent of their sin? No. Let's turn also to first John chapter 1 versus nine and 10:

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Can babies confess their sin? Can babies have faith? Can babies say that they have not sinned? No, babies cannot do even one of these things, nor do they have the ability to make the decision as to whether or not they will pick up their cross and follow the Messiah. And so, the sprinkling of babies is completely and utterly worthless... unless there is simply some dirt on the child's head that you are trying to wash away, and we've already seen in first Peter chapter 3 verse 21 that baptism is not a removal of dirt from the body, but is an appeal to God for good conscience through the resurrection of our Messiah.

To make a long story short, if you have been sprinkled as a baby... you are indeed not baptized. And for those of you who have been baptized properly, but feel a need to be rebaptized... then you should be... rebaptized. We have many people who have sat in church pews for more than 30 to 40 years, and have never really known the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten Son. It wasn't until they joined a good Bible study and opened the book for themselves and read it from cover to cover, that they truly knew and understood who our Father and his only begotten Son really are. And when their eyes are opened, and their ears can finally hear... they often times feel the need to be rebaptized. This is the Ruach Hakodesh calling them back to the water, and this call should not under any circumstances be ignored. Baptism is much like marriage. People reaffirm their marriage vows all the time and we think nothing of it. They do it because after 10 or 20 years they love each other even more than they did when they first met. And so too it is with baptism. There is nothing wrong with reaffirming your love for the Messiah and our Father. And so, let no one keep you from the water if the spirit of God is calling you back to the water.

Another thing that I want us to completely understand is that sprinkling is not baptism. There are literally thousands of denominational charters of men out there who will wrongly proclaim all kinds of different ways to be baptized, but the only true biblical way to be baptized is

through full body immersion into water. There is not one example of anyone being sprinkled, by water, or rose pedals, or by anything else found within the pages of our God breathed Scriptures. Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water and he was baptized. Our Messiah when baptized by John, came up out of the water. The very symbolism of baptism is that we follow our Messiah down into the grave and are resurrected from that watery grave just as he was resurrected as new creatures. You cannot go down into a watery grave by being sprinkled by water or rose pedals. Sprinkling and pouring are man-made doctrines, and it is in direct opposition of how baptism is to be performed according to our God breathed scripture. And we could get into the Jewish tradition of the mikvah, and the original word “Baptize” and the original meanings of that word but I will leave those things up to you to study as you take these things to your prayer closet and ask for the discernment to understand these things.

People will often times ask where they need to go to be baptized, or do they have to go to a certain denominational church, or is there a particular person with certain authority that is able to baptize them. The gospel is very clear about who can baptize. Our Messiah told his apostles in Matthew chapter 28 verse 19... And I quote, “*go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*” And so, this is exactly what the disciples did. They went out in a baptized them and made disciples of all nations. If you are a disciple of the Messiah, then you are able to baptize. Any believer in the Messiah can baptize another believer in the Messiah. From time to time we get letters from parents wanting to know if they can baptize their children. The answer to that question is unequivocally “yes” there is absolutely no reason why parents should not be baptizing their children and their children’s children.

Someone had written in not very long ago asking if they could baptize in a bathtub. The answer to that question is yes you most certainly can baptize in a bathtub. People have been baptized in horse troughs, bathtubs, huge plastic containers, rivers, lakes, oceans, anywhere where there is a large body of water that you can be immersed in. There is no mandate according to our God breathed Scriptures as to what particular container of water you must be baptized in. And so there really are no excuses for not being baptized.

And that brings us to the next question that we get from time to time. What if someone accepts the Messiah on their deathbed? What if someone has never believed before, and just before they die, they decide to accept Yeshua Hamashiach as their Savior? But they’ve never been baptized before? Is it possible that they will be accepted? The answer to that question lies with our Messiah. It is our Messiah who will judge each and every person, each and every heart, each and every mind, and it is our Messiah who decides who he will accept, and who he will not accept. I tell you the truth my friends... there are going to be an awful lot of people that we think are not good enough to get into the kingdom of heaven, who are going to get into the kingdom of heaven. And there are going to be a whole lotta people that we think will surely be able to get in to the kingdom of heaven, but they will not be welcomed in to the kingdom of heaven. There are pastors, priests, bishops, and popes who are not going to enter into his kingdom. And there are people on death row sitting in prison right now, who will enter his

kingdom.

No man can tell another man that he's going to heaven or hell. No man can point the finger at another man and tell him that he's going to heaven. And by the same token, no man can point the finger at another man and tell him he's going to hell. Only our Father in heaven has the ability to search the heart and the minds of his people. Only our Father in heaven knows what is truly in the heart and the mind of a person. But with that being said I will say this... I would not want to think that I could live like the devil until the last minute, and then change my mind and go to heaven. I would not want to gamble my salvation on a last-minute whim. And I tell you the truth my friends... some of us will die in a blink of an eye with no opportunity to make that decision at the last minute. If your heart stops, you're done. If you get hit by a car tomorrow, you're done. Many people have died without the opportunity to accept the Messiah. And even then, we have no idea what was flashing through their minds during those last few seconds of life. We have no idea what was in their minds, or what their last thoughts were. Only God the Father knows that, and only his Son has the authority to judge these things.

Before I let you go I would like to recite what the apostle Paul told the church at Corinth concerning baptism, and we can find that in first Corinthians chapter 1 verses 14 through 31:

1Co 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

1Co 1:15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

1Co 1:16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

1Co 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1Co 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

1Co 1:20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1Co 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

1Co 1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

1Co 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Co 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

1Co 1:27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

1Co 1:28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

1Co 1:29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1Co 1:30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1Co 1:31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

There are indeed those who preach the gospel with words of eloquent wisdom. But the apostle Paul told the church at Corinth that this empties the cross of its power. There are wonderful orators out there with wonderful smiles, and seemingly warm words full of piousness, that seem to be holy, and yet are nothing but the words of wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. *Has not God made foolish the wise of the world?* We see it time after time after time. Each time one of these super apostles takes the stage and proclaims the first day of the week to be the holy sanctified Sabbath of God. Each time one of these super apostles takes the stage and proclaims that our Messiah died on Good Friday, instead of Passover day, the day that he told us he died in his own red-letter words in Matthew chapter 26 verse two. Every time one of these super apostles takes the stage to proclaim the birthday of our Messiah is on December 25th... knowing full well in the back of his mind, that the words that are leaving his lips are nothing but the black oil of our adversaries' deception.

We preach Christ crucified, which indeed is a stumbling block to the Jews and a folly to the Gentiles. And so too, is the truth of the red-letter words that he spoke. But you see the foolishness of God is indeed wiser than the wisdom of men, and the weakness of God is indeed stronger than men. And this is why God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and this is why God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world to show his wisdom through them so that God could make foolish... the wisdom of the world. No human being can boast in the presence of God, and those who think they can are only fooling themselves. Our Messiah has indeed become the wisdom of God to us. Righteousness and sanctification and redemption, only come from him, and so just as Paul told the church at Corinth... *"Let the one who boasts, boast in Yahovah and his only begotten son."*

And with that all being said I hope that we have shed some light on baptism, and the fact that everyone should indeed be baptized. And the fact that there are no examples of sprinkling or pouring found within our God breathed Scripture. I hope that we've been able to shed some light on the proper way to perform a baptism according to our Messiah and his very own red letter words, and I hope that we have removed any excuses that may have previously existed within the minds of anyone who has been doubting the power of baptism as our Messiah has commanded us to do in his own red letter words. If you feel the need to recommit your marriage vows to our Messiah through re-baptism, I strongly urge you to do so. Let no one keep you from the water, and let no one make you doubt what the Ruach Hakodesh of God is calling you to do.

And above all my friends... as we always ask you to do... please, take these things to your prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knees, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true, or not. Test everything, and know and understand that truth can only come from the Ruach Hakodesh of God the Father and nowhere else.