

Questions and Answers

Related to the Baptism of Jesus and Baptism in General

Saturday, 1/11 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/12 at 9:00

The Baptism of Our Lord – 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Baptism is very basic, *yet very important!*

- ➔ Do you give much thought to YOUR OWN baptism?
- ➔ Do you know ENOUGH about baptism to discuss the topic with someone else?

Even if you can't say, "Yes" right now, *I hope you can by the end of this sermon.* Today we are going to focus ↯ on Jesus' baptism, and then ↯ on other questions related to baptism.

1. **Jesus Came to be Baptized:** ¹³ **Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.**
 - a. **WHEN did Jesus come to John?** After John had been preaching and baptizing for possibly six months, *which was a time when many were coming to hear John and be baptized.*
 - b. **WHY did Jesus come to John?** To be baptized by him, *which indicated Jesus' willingness to ↯ be the Christ and ↯ take away the sin of the world!*
2. **Jesus Had to Convince John to Baptize Him:** ¹⁴ **John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"** ¹⁵ **But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is**

fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

- a. WHAT is baptism? *God’s work to forgive sins!*
- b. WHY did John need to be baptized by Jesus? *Because he was a sinner, just like you and me!*
- c. WHY did Jesus need to convince John to baptize Him? *Because Jesus had no sin!*
- d. WHAT did Jesus mean when He said, “to fulfill all righteousness”? *John baptizing Jesus was the NEXT STEP IN JESUS’ MISSION to save the world! Think about this order: ♣John was born, ♣Jesus was born, and ♣John began baptizing; then Jesus ♣was baptized, ♣began His ministry, ♣preached and taught, ♣received our sins and punishment, and ♣took away the sin of the world!*

3. **Jesus Was Anointed with the Holy Spirit:** 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;**

- a. WHAT changed for Jesus when the Holy Spirit came to rest upon Him? He officially became the Messiah (*Hebrew*), the Christ (*Greek*); both words mean *the Anointed One*. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, thus we could say *He was commissioned for His saving work!*
- b. WHY did the Holy Spirit remain on Jesus? He was a gift from God the Father for *the human nature* of Jesus. As the Holy Spirit was a huge

blessing to Jesus as true man, so that same Spirit is a huge blessing to us as God's children!

4. **Jesus Was Identified by God the Father:** ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." // HOW can we summarize what has been said so far? Lenski wrote: "By the baptism **Jesus gives** himself to the work of sin-bearing; by the anointing and the voice from heaven **the Father accepts** him for that work" (130).
5. **More Baptism-Related Questions:**
 - a. HOW was Jesus' baptism different than ours? When Jesus was baptized, *He agreed to take away our sins*; when we were baptized, God gave us the benefits of Jesus' work!
 - b. WHY was Jesus baptized when He was 30 years old? Baptism began when God sent John to baptize – *only about six months before Jesus was baptized*; therefore, for Jesus and for others, *the opportunity to be baptized had only recently become available*. Think about cell phones... did you have one when you were young? Why not?
 - c. WHY don't all churches baptize babies? For churches who believe that **God IS at work in baptism, THEY DO**; however, for churches who believe that **God IS NOT at work in baptism, THEY DON'T**.
 - d. WHEN should a person be baptized? *As soon as possible!* Imagine an infant with a terminal illness, and then discovering that a definite cure was available in Chicago! *Wouldn't you*

immediately make plans for your child to go and receive! Since that same infant has the terminal illness of sin, shouldn't the parents make immediate plans for their child to receive God's cure through baptism!

e. **CAN an infant receive a gift from God?** *Certainly!*

If I put money into an infant's bank account, he wouldn't understand at the time; nevertheless, the money would still be his.

f. **HOW should our baptism long ago be a blessing to us today?**

i. **Recall the gifts:**

1. *Forgiveness of all sins!*
2. *Spiritual life, thus alive in Christ!*
3. *Membership in God's family!*
4. *Eternal life; we have it now and will have its fullness when Jesus returns!*
5. *The Holy Spirit living inside of us to guide and empower us!*

ii. **Say:** "I AM baptized!" Then, we are
‣remembering and ‣rejoicing *that we are still in possession of God's precious gifts!*

This Week's Challenge: Now that we understand more about baptism, *let us remember our own and be thankful!*

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, TYSM for sending Your Son to bring us back into Your family through Holy Baptism! Help us to always rejoice in what You have done for us!

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