

# 6 ■ We believe that all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as Lord and Saviour are commanded to be baptised by immersion in water.

One of the most famous characters in the New Testament is John the Baptist. As his name suggests John baptised people in the river Jordan before Jesus began His work. Mathew 3:3, tells us that John was called to prepare the way for Jesus, and this he did by teaching people to repent of their sins and turn their hearts back to God.

However, the problem is that if that is why John baptised people, to be a public declaration of repentance, how can that be what Jesus did. For we know that for Jesus to be able to have paid the price for our sins He needed to have lived a sinless life. therefore, if we know Jesus didn't sin why did Jesus get baptised by John?

Well, Jesus wasn't baptised to repent of sin he did it to announce who He was and to be prepared for His work to come. This is what John's baptism in the bible is to point to Jesus and say 'Behold the lamb of God' a person he would know when he saw the Spirit descend upon Him.. Many people are confused about this and think that it was because Jesus is baptised that we should be baptised. Yet as we have seen that is not the case,.

why do we baptise people then? we read in Mathew 28:19 that Jesus gave us the great Commission commanding us to baptise people, but that's still not a reason why. John baptised to prepare people for Jesus arrival and to show that he was the Messiah, this of course isn't the reason for our baptism because Jesus has already arrived. Instead we are encouraged to be baptised by the Lord because it represents His death, burial and resurrection. this is confirmed to us in Colossians 2:12-13. it is a very important thing to go through because it is a ritual that reminds us exactly what happened to us when we were saved, in the same way that the breaking of bread reminds us how much it cost for our salvation.

when someone is baptised they are brought under the water, this is like burial, they are then lifted out and this is like the resurrection. This is just like Jesus who died on the cross and was buried then three days later rose again. We are taught in bible that what happened to Jesus will happen to each one of us. We will be raised up at the end just like Jesus was to go and be with Him in Heaven.

Acts chapter 8 has the account of the Ethiopian reading Isaiah and not being able to understand it but Philip explains that the passage is about Jesus and shares the gospel. what we read in that Passage is a man being transformed by the Gospel, and he asks the important question, "what hinders me from getting baptised?". Philips reply is that nothing did. Baptism is not predicated on having done a course, paid a financial sum or length of time, it simply requires a declaration of Faith in Jesus.

We are taught to be Christ like and so as our Lord went through baptism we must as well. it is His death burial and resurrection which we are partakers of and by which we are saved. Whenever we are struggling with our salvation we can always remember this ritual and what it means as a comfort knowing that we too share it as heirs of his kingdom