

"THE PROPER BAPTISMAL FORMULA"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus says His disciples are to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". This is called being baptized into the name of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

However, in Acts 2:38, the inspired Apostle Peter on the birthday of the church states that one is to be "baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Some would argue that the Scriptures are contradicting one another. This is never the situation. If one realizes the word translated "name" in Acts 2:38 is from the Greek "ONAMA" which means "by the authority of", then the idea of contradiction is removed.

In other words, Peter was saying "by the authority of Jesus" - be baptized by the formula which Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18-20. That is, be baptized in the name of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

When a uniformed police officer blows his whistle and says "stop, in the name of the law" - he is saying "stop, by the authority of the law!" Therefore, one should not have any difficulty in understanding Peter's words in Acts 2:38 "...repent and be baptized in the name (by the authority) of Jesus Christ...".

Now, many would say that the mode of baptism is not important (sprinkling, pouring or immersion), nor the baptismal formula. However, if one wants to follow the Scriptures closely, then one will not settle for anything less than what the Bible teaches.

The plain teaching of the Word of God is:

- 1) Sinners need to be baptized in water (by immersion) for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), in the name of the Trinity (Matthew 28:18-20).
- 2) Water baptism must be accompanied with repentance (turning away from known sins - Acts 17:30).
- 3) Godly living and faithfulness to Christ must follow water baptism (Revelation 2:10).

If you have not been baptized properly, then why not take care of this and do it right now! You will be glad you did!

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association

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