



Title: Three Reasons for Biblical Baptism
Text: Matt. 3:1-13

Matt. 3:1 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.”

- 1) John the Baptist was doing the work of a prophet (preaching) and a New Testament Baptist – he was already involved in baptizing disciples.
- 2) His message to all men is “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”
 - a. Repent means to turn from sin, self, tradition, false beliefs, idols toward God.
 - b. Kingdom of Heaven means the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. “at hand” it is near.
- 3) He preached to all, but he only baptized some. **ONLY** those who repent and believe (v.6) were baptized. This is what distinguishes Biblical Baptism from religious ceremonies of both Catholics and Protestants.

“7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

- 1) The Pharisees and Sadducees desired to be baptized. John rebuked them!
- 2) The pre-requisite to Biblical Baptism is repentance. John looked for “fruit meet for repentance” (v.8b). The religious-political leaders of John’s day **FAILED** the examination.
- 3) We only baptized those who have repented of sin and trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

“13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- The Lord Jesus submitted himself to baptism. He is our example. **NOTICE**: Baptism does not save and the Lord Jesus does not need to get saved, but he needed to get baptized. Baptism is not about salvation, it is about obedience as a result of salvation.
- a. “...for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.” (v.15b)
 - b. **“For thus”** – in this way by immersion of a disciple or believer; **“it becometh”** – it is proper or right or good; **“us”** – association (Biblical Baptism identifies our fellowship); **“to fulfill”** – to perform or to execute; **“all righteousness”** – to obey God’s moral law.

Conclusion:

Biblical Baptism is the disciple’s public profession of repentance and faith, an open act of identification with Christ and with his church, and obedience to God’s will not for salvation but because of salvation.