

Christ Authorized Baptism in His Great Commission

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Introduction:

1. Recently, we have been studying some important Bible subjects that relate to "the authority of Christ."
 - a. Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:18), and His followers are to submit to His authority (Colossians 3:17).
 - b. We have shown that Christ has authorized His followers to evangelize, to worship, to love each other, to bear fruit, and to use their talents.
2. In addition to giving requirements to His followers, Christ has given requirements to those who desire to become His followers.
3. According to Hebrews 5:9, we must comply with the instructions that Christ has authorized for becoming His followers.
4. In our lesson we are emphasizing the fact that "Christ authorized baptism in His Great Commission."

Discussion:

I. LET US EXAMINE THE GREAT COMMISSION

A. Matthew 28:18-20

1. Christ authorized His followers to teach, baptize, and teach.
2. Please note that baptism:
 - a. is a command of Christ who has *"all power [authority]"*
 - b. is for *"all nations"* [everyone]
 - c. is *"in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"*
 - d. is to be administered *"unto the end of the world."*

B. Mark 16:15-16

1. Christ authorized His followers to preach the Gospel.
2. Please note that baptism:
 - a. is for those who believe (Acts 8:36-38)
 - b. results in salvation.

II. LET US EXAMINE ACTS -- IT SHOWS HOW PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED AS THE GREAT COMMISSION WAS CARRIED OUT, INCLUDING:

- A. 3,000 in Jerusalem on Pentecost (2:37-38, 41)
- B. people in Samaria (8:12)
- C. the eunuch of Ethiopia (8:38)
- D. Saul (9:18; 22:16)

- E. Cornelius and his household (10:48)
- F. Lydia and her household (16:14-15)
- G. the Philippian jailer (16:33)
- H. the Corinthians (18:8)
- I. the 12 men in Ephesus (19:5) [we will study this example of conversion this evening -- it shows how some people were baptized but were later baptized "*in the name of the Lord Jesus*"].

III. LET US EXAMINE PASSAGES WRITTEN TO CONGREGATIONS OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

- A. (Romans 6:3-7) We are "*freed from sin*" when we are baptized into the Lord.
- B. (1 Corinthians 12:13) We are baptized "*into one body*" [the church -- Ephesians 1:22-23].
- C. (Galatians 3:26-29) When we are "*baptized into Christ*" we become "*children of God,*" we "*put on Christ,*" and we become Abraham's spiritual descendants.
- D. (Ephesians 4:5) There is only "*one baptism.*"
- E. (Colossians 2:12) We are "*buried with him [Christ] in baptism.*"
- F. (1 Peter 3:21) We are saved when we are scripturally baptized.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus invites everyone to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).
2. Let us remember Jesus is "*the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Hebrews 5:9).
3. Have you followed the Lord's instructions for the salvation of your soul?