

The Baptism of Jesus **Why did it need to take place?**

Introduction:

- A. A question that is sometimes asked is, “Why did Jesus need to be baptized?” The thought usually runs along this line. “We always say that Jesus did not sin (Heb. 4:15) and baptism is for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38). If that is the case, why did he need to be baptized?”
- B. Someone once said that if you do not understand this principle, you do not understand the core concept of the Bible. Usually an answer is given because the person doing the answering cannot answer the question. I personally do not believe that inability to answer this question shows a lack of understanding. It may show a lack of study, but one can by faith accept many things without understanding them.
- C. But, having said all that, why was Jesus baptized. The Bible gives us several reasons that we need to be aware of. We are going to look at only three.

I. *To Fulfill All Righteousness* - Matt 3:15

Matthew 3:15 - But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. (NAS95)

- A. True statement but incomplete
- B. What does “fulfill all righteousness mean
 - 1. Webster says righteous is
 - a. Acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin
 - b. Morally right or justifiable <a righteous decision>
 - c. Slang: genuine, excellent
 - 2. There for “righteousness” would be doing God’s will
 - 3. John’s baptism was authorized by God - Matt 21:25; Lk 7:29

Matthew 21:25 - "The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?" And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'" (NAS95)

Luke 7:29 - When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. (NAS95)

- C. To not submit to this would be to reject God’s commands (a sin)
 - 1. That would have meant Jesus was not the perfect sacrifice (Num 19, 28, 29; 1 Pet 1:19; Heb 9:14)

1 Peter 1:19 - but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (NAS95)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (NAS95)

II. *Jesus Life Served As An Example For Us* - 1 Pet 2:21

1 Peter 2:21 - For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, (NAS95)

A. Many think the idea of baptism is a bit of foolishness, but if Jesus was willing to do it, who are we to put it down?

B. Jesus came to show us how to live in subjection to God's will - Heb 10:7; 12:2; 5:9

Hebrews 10:7 - "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'" (NAS95)

Hebrews 12:2 - fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NAS95)

Hebrews 5:9 - And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, (NAS95)

C. Paul says we should imitate his life - 1 Cor 11:1

1 Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. (NAS95)

1. Paul says he lived with a good conscience his entire life - Acts 23:1

Acts 23:1 - Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day." (NAS95)

2. When told what to do, he did it - Acts 22:16

Acts 22:16 - 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' (NAS95)

III. *An Initiation Into His Ministry* - John 1:29-34

John 1:29-34 - The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God." (NAS95)

A. John was forerunner to Jesus

1. To this point, Jesus had been relatively unknown

2. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in His life

B. Baptism marks the beginning of a new life for those who submit to it - 2 Cor 5:17-19

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (NAS95)

Conclusion:

A. John's baptism was administered under Moses' Law. It was never meant to remove the sins of those who received it.

B. God used this event as a way of introducing Jesus and His message to the Jews and ultimately to the whole world.