

The Glory Of Jesus Revealed

January 13, 2019 – Luke 3:21-23

(Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:31-34)

“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased. Now Jesus Himself was about thirty years old when He began His ministry. He was the son, so it was thought of Joseph, the son of Heli,” - ηλι -

The Gospel writer Luke informs us that Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His PUBLIC Ministry.

Jesus of course was fulfilling all of His ministry, in the flesh, on our behalf, from the moment he was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Here at His baptism, Jesus begins His PUBLIC Ministry.

In the O.T. men entered the priesthood at the age of 30. (Numbers 4:3, 47)

We see that Jesus begins his Public Ministry with His Baptism.

Are You baptized? What is the date of Your baptism? Do you know? Have you looked it up?

We often celebrate the day of our birth into this world, Why not celebrate the date of our spiritual birth into the Kingdom of God?

In Baptism God gives us the blessings of the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, and where there is forgiveness, there is also life and salvation.

In Acts 2:38-39 - The Apostle Peter so clearly proclaimed on that 1st Pentecost Sunday after the resurrection, ***“Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”***

Acts 22:16 – Ananais to Paul while he was still Saul – ***“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.”***

How serious is our sin? Sin is so serious that it results in death, from an infant, all the way through to that 100 + year old who made it on the evening news as the oldest person in America.

Since baptism gives the forgiveness of sins, why did Jesus need to be baptized?

Jesus was not baptized because of His sin, but because He took upon Himself our sin,

II Corinthians 5:21 – ***God made Him Who had NO SIN, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*** **Isaiah 53:12 & Luke 22:37** – ***“He was numbered with the transgressors.”***

- and in baptism, Jesus connects Himself to us.

In other words, in the Baptism of Jesus We see Him humbling Himself, to our level, and Yet He was without Sin. (Hebrews 4:15 without sin)

Jesus did not separate Himself from sinners, but Identified with them and became sin for us, to save us from Sin, Death, and hell and the power of Satan.

It is then in our Baptism that we become connected to Christ.

Baptism is all Gospel, All Good News, All God's Grace working in us and for us.

He was baptized for us. He took our sin upon Himself. He connects us to His Perfect Holiness in Baptism.

I Peter 3:18-22 – For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 19 – through Whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison 20 – who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 – and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 – Who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him."

There are many who challenge the power of baptism and the efficacy of baptism, especially of infants.

In the O.T. there was no baptism.

There were only ceremonial washings from the time of Moses when God gave the Moral – Civil and Ceremonial Laws in about 1500 B.C. on Mt. Sinai, but no Baptism as we have in the N.T.

Before These laws which God gave to Moses, there were not even any Ceremonial washings.

Why is it that we now have Baptism in the N.T.? - Because That is the way God set it up.

Why are there 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week and not 10 days in a week and 50 hours in a Day? Because God is God, and He made everything, and so He has the right to establish that which He wants, the way He wants.

God is the MASTER Builder.

How many times do you need to be baptized?

Ephesians 4:4-6 – "There is one body and One Spirit just as you were called to one hope when you were called – 5 – One Lord, One faith, one baptism 6 – One God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all."

If you are not going to trust your first baptism which may have occurred as an infant, why would you your second baptism be any good? This baptism is for ALL regardless of gender – color of skin and age. Yes even infants.

It is God Who does the work of creating faith in our hearts, not our own reason or strength.

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go Ye therefore and teach ALL NATIONS – Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All Includes ALL regardless of even age.

Every time you wash your hands or take a shower, may you be reminded of your Baptism in which Jesus washed away all your sin. And because your sin is washed away by Jesus, You have heaven where there is no more sin or death or sorrow or pain and we will get those new glorified bodies, Transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body. (Rev. 21:1-7; Rev. 7:9-17; Philippians 3:20-21) **AMEN!**