

Baptism "In The Name Of Jesus"

by Bill Crews

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personal name by which one is called, and then, contrary to all the scholars, simplistically say, "The name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is the name 'Jesus.'" They reason(?) that Christ was simply telling the apostles that when they baptized anyone, they were to say that they were doing it "in the name of Jesus" because "Jesus" is the Father's name, and the Son's name, and the Holy Ghost's name.

They also ignore the variety of expressions used in Acts and the fact that different prepositions are used (for which they attempt no explanation). Matt. 28:19 says: "*baptizing them into (or in, EIS) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" Acts 2:38 says: "*be baptized ..in (EPI) the name of Jesus Christ.*" Acts 8:16 says: "*only they had been baptized into (EIS) the name of the Lord Jesus,*" and it does not say: "*they had been baptized in the name of Jesus only.*" Acts 10:48 says: "*And he commanded them to be baptized in (EN) the name of Jesus Christ.*" Acts 19:5 says: "*they were baptized into (EIS) the name of the Lord Jesus.*" *Thayer's New Testament Greek Lexicon* gives the meanings of these various prepositional phrases and explains the force of the different prepositions, but the fact remains: all of them have to do with what people were told to do or what people did, and none of them tells us what words were spoken at the time anyone was baptized or whether any words were spoken. There is no baptismal formula to be uttered. Please read also Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 8:38; 9:18 (no, Acts 22:16, which also has to do with the baptism of Saul, does not tell us that Ananias called the name of the Lord over Saul when he baptized him; Ananias was telling Saul what he was to do); 16:15; and 18:8, and see if you can find a baptismal formula being uttered by the baptizer. "By the authority of" is the most common meaning of "in the name of."

If "*in the name of the Lord Jesus*" means to utter the name of "Jesus," then Colossians 3:17 commands us in "*whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed*" to accompany it by uttering the name "Jesus." And that is silliness gone to seed.

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