

# “His Word is Truth”

On Sunday, January 8th, many Christian churches around the world celebrated the baptism of Jesus – Who was baptized by John the baptizer. (See *Luke 3:2b – 3*)

The ministry of John fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament which said that God would raise up a prophet to prepare the way for the Savior of sinners: the Lord Himself in human flesh! (See



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*Isaiah 40:1-5; Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6; Matthew 3:1-4 & 11:13-14; Luke 1:13-17*) However, this fact leads to a question: “Why was Jesus baptized by John?”

Mark 1:4 reads, “**And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**” Jesus is the sinless Son of God, and so He did not need to repent of sin nor did He need the forgiveness of sin delivered to us by God in the waters of baptism. (See *Acts 2:38-39 & 22:16; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5*) So, why was Jesus baptized by John?

Matthew 3:13-17 reads, “**Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending**

**like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’**” Here we see that Jesus was baptized for reasons completely different than why we sinners are baptized.

Jesus said that His baptism was necessary to “fulfill all righteousness” – which refers to God’s plan to save us from our sins against Him (see *Matthew 1:21; also Romans 1:17 & 3:21-28*) – and the baptism of Jesus by John was part of that plan for TWO reasons.

**First**, the reason baptism gives us the forgiveness of sins is precisely because Jesus has made Himself part of it! John merely spoke God’s Word and applied the water of baptism, but Jesus is the SOURCE of salvation delivered in baptism and is the One who gives the Holy Spirit and forgiveness in the waters of baptism! (See *Matthew 3:11 & 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-39; Colossians 2:11-13*)

**Second**, the Father and the Holy Spirit used Jesus’ baptism to declare that He is the eternal Son of God in human flesh who entered this world to save us from our sins.

The baptism of Jesus by John is God’s sign to us that baptism is the work of GOD for us sinners. The Holy Spirit works through the preaching of God’s Word to give us new hearts of repentance and faith in Jesus so that we might receive His saving gifts in the waters of baptism and live new lives as God’s children. (See *Romans 6:1-4*)

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