

John The Baptist

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

If it had gone according to the custom of the land, John would have been named Zacharias, after the name of his father. (Luke 1:59). It was not until Zacharias wrote, "His name shall be John," that he was able to speak. The angel Gabriel had told these things to him in the temple when he announced that Zacharias and his wife would have a son in their old age. God said it would happen and it did. John was a chosen servant of God and would be the fore runner of the Lord.

John came and started his ministry, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. He spoke of the Christ who was to come and magnified the Lord Jesus while claiming no honor for himself. He was humble and stated that he was not worthy to carry his shoes. He glorified the Christ and taught that they needed to repent of their sins, and that judgment was coming. He baptized those that came and

received his message.

He was called, "The Baptist" because he baptized the people for the remission of sins. John didn't invent, or come up with, baptism on his own. **John 1:33.** "And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." John as a faithful servant of God, did what he was sent to do. He baptized for the remission of sins, not for some initiation into a church.

To baptize is to immerse in water, not pouring a little on the head, or sprinkling, but burying in water. Men, for various reasons, chose to alter the method set forth by the Lord. No man, or group of men, have the right to change what God has said. Consider **Matthew 15:1-9** where Jesus told the Jewish leaders that, "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their

heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." They didn't like the truth any more than some people do today. However, the Lord has not changed and neither has his commands.

John the Baptist was dedicated to serving God, even at the cost of his life. When he spoke against the unlawful marriage of Herod and Herodias, she hated him and wanted him killed. John didn't compromise on the word of God and it would result in him being killed. He was a God fearing man, not worrying about what man could and would do to him.

Notice that John didn't do any miracles, yet was a great man of God. John delivered a faithful, no nonsense message to the people. He strove not for fame, or fortune, but to serve the Lord. We need many more men today who have the faith and obedience of John the Baptist. Men who will do faithfully what God has commanded. So many are bound by denominational doctrines, and trying to please the people so that they fail to do what Jesus taught. Jesus commended John for his ministry, can he commend those who change the teachings of God?

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437 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH

HAVING REACHED THE TOP OF THE WALLS, OTHNIEL'S MEN ARE BESET UPON BY THE FIERCE GIANT DEFENDERS...



AND, UPON THE HEIGHTS OVERLOOKING THE CITY, THE MEN OTHNIEL PLACED THERE EAGERLY AWAIT HIS SIGNAL!

THE BATTLE IS JOINED - BUT WHERE IS OTHNIEL'S SIGNAL?!



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