

It has come to my attention that a certain failure has occurred in our obeying the word of God. This may seem a small or trivial detail but God has repeatedly pointed out the fact to me that he said we would be blessed if we did **ALL** that he commanded. And since we missed the main point of His Gospel – I think that this is worth considering.

There are many ways supposedly to be saved within Denominal Christianity – and every one holds to their own tradition. For example:

1. By Grace only are you saved (and not by works)
2. Make a decision to follow Christ.
3. Accept the Lord Jesus as your personal savior.
4. Etc.

However, if you listen to the man Christ Jesus as recorded in the Gospels or God the Father in the Old Testament you get a different picture.

Jesus said “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” and that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name” and “... except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Our job is to connect the dots. By studying the scriptures and rightly dividing the word of truth. And, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Peter was given the keys to the kingdom – he did it correctly on the first day of the church on the day of Pentecost. But strange as it may seem he did not have the New Testament to reference on the first day of the

Church. The only Bible he had was the Old Testament and that is what he quoted on that fateful day of Pentecost, it was Joel, Chapter 2. And that is what he obeyed!

That's part of our problem. We are trying to save people by quoting the New Testament. It won't work – it will never work. Peter was obeying the Old Testament when he was baptizing people. And the Book of Acts records this fact. We can quote the Book of Acts all day long and we will never get to the truth about baptism from a translation like KJV, NIV, etc.

How did this happen? Where is the the mistake and the error? Basically it came from *lazy* Christians who did not bother to check out a few key scriptures involving *their own* salvation.

The King James was not just simply translated from the original Hebrew. There were different committees that divided up the Bible and these various committees compared other translations and took the best of the group as their translation. Their selection was often corrupted by public perception, long standing traditions and ignorance – not to mention a little help from the Devil.

To add to this problem some words are ambiguous and have more than one meaning – especially in English. Take for example Romans 10:13 and Acts 2:21 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” This is total baloney in the translation. God never said such a thing. A careful check of the original Hebrew, i.e. the Aleppo or Leningrad Codex, will show that what God actually said was, “For whosoever is named with my name shall be saved.” The Hebrew verb used here is “yikra” and When you see how it is used the first 25 times in the Bible it means to give a name to someone or something with possibly only 2 exceptions.

To get to the point – **we can say** that the name is imputed to the person being baptized when we say “I baptize you in Jesus name” but that is not what God told us to do in Joel 2:32 where He said “And it shall come to pass everyone who shall be named with the name of **I Am**, he shall be saved, in the mountains of Zion and in Jerusalem...” And this is what Peter was doing – he was **naming** people with Jesus’ Name; he was not saying like we do from reading the bad translation of the New Testament, “I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ or “I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost”. He was naming people Jesus as he said in Acts 2:21 when he was quoting Joel 2:32 **And it shall come to pass, everyone who if [they] are named with the name of the Lord [they] shall be saved.** (From the actual Greek)

Now think about it – If Peter was naming people Jesus while pushing them down under the water – couldn’t it be truthfully be said of him he baptized those people in Jesus Name? And that is exactly what happened. Some Preachers are referencing the general statement in Acts 2:38 as if it were the formula to obey just as others reference Jesus’ statement in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” as if that were the saving formula for baptism. We are all guilty of the same thing by repeating an overall general statement by Jesus in Matthew 28:19 or by Peter in Acts 2:38 rather than obeying Joel 2:32, as Peter was.

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Sharing God’s Word – Sharing God’s Spirit