

[Timothy](#)

Administrator

Senior Contributor



Offline

Posts: 889



Time tells all Truth...



[View Profile](#) [Email](#)

[Re:Is baptism about dedication?](#)



« **Reply #107 on:** December 11, 2003, 11:08:10 AM »

---

[Quote from: Linda on November 15, 2003, 04:26:19 AM](#)

Dear Perimeno, Let's see if I am following you correctly. When someone was baptized by John, they were confessing their sins and, asking for forgiveness, right? When Jesus was baptized, he was dedicating, or presenting himself to do his Father's will, right? O.K. So where does that leave us today? When we are baptized are we asking for forgiveness, or dedicating ourselves, or both? Or does our baptism represent that we have faith that Jesus died for our sins?? Please continue with your thoughts. I am lost here 8-Z Love, Linda

Greetings Linda,

Rather than try to take all of this immense thread into my brain while sitting in my albeit comfortable office chair, I decided to print the thread out (it was 65 pages on Dec 9th!!).

I am now as far into the thread as your question, so please forgive me if I repeat something that was

actually said further on.

Concerning Perimeno's discussion, and how, then, we are to view Jesus having presented himself for baptism by John, this is what I have come up with in the past half hour:

**Then Jesus came from Gal'i-lee to the Jordan to John, in order to be baptized by him. 14 But the latter tried to prevent him, saying: "I am the one needing to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?" 15 In reply Jesus said to him: "Let it be, this time, for in that way it is suitable for us to carry out all that is righteous." Then he quit preventing him. --Matthew 3:13-15 (NWT)**

Notice the part that I underlined. Why did Jesus say that he needed to undergo baptism? "To carry out all that is righteous." Remember, Jesus was born into the Jewish system of worship. Your question surrounds the idea that Jesus didn't need to be baptized because he was a sinner, but does his baptism denote that he was dedicating or presenting himself to do Jehovah's will...? Yes, but not in the way that you might be thinking.

For one, Jesus had apparently already done so at a much earlier point in his earthly life. Notice how this is spoken of in the scriptures:

**Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. 47 But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers. 48 Now when they saw him they were astounded, and his mother said to him: "Child, why did you treat us this way? Here your father and I in mental distress have been looking for you." 49 But he said to them: "Why did YOU have to go looking for me? Did YOU not know that I must be in the [house] of my Father?" 50 However, they did not grasp the saying that he spoke to them.--Luke 2:46-50 (NWT)**

So, Jesus knew at this point what he must do, and he demonstrated that he was dedicated to doing Jehovah's will. So, a later dedication would be redundant.

What, then, was accomplished by Jesus presenting himself for baptism by John, if not dedication and presenting himself to do Jehovah's will?

The answer rests in the parallel account of Jesus' baptism, found in John:

**The next day he {John} beheld Jesus coming toward him, and he said: "See, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world! --John 1:29 (NWT)**

Now, when we add this to what was said by Jesus to John in Matthew's account (see above), the picture should become more clear. If Jesus is the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world," then what might Jesus have been referring to when he said the words "To carry out all that is righteous"?

Are the wheels starting to turn yet? I didn't "get it" until I was reading the thread and then looking into your question.

Allow me to give some additional clues, though.

What role does Jesus have as our mediator? Is it not the role of *High Priest*?

**Consequently he was obliged to become like his “brothers” in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people.**--Hebrews 2:17 (NWT)

We already recognize that the "Lamb of God" *is* that "propitiatory sacrifice" that was offered "for the sins of the people," but we (at least \*I\*) fail to grasp, then, why Jesus presented himself for baptism by John. The clues are given to us, though, in that Jesus is our "High Priest," and our "Lamb" which is offered "for the sins of the people."

Knowing this, what Jewish observance comes to mind? Is it not the Day of Atonement, when, according to the *Insight* book:

*The Day of Atonement (Heb., yohm hak-kip-pu-rim', "day of the coverings") was one of propitiation or sin covering, commemorated by Israel on the tenth day of the seventh month of the sacred year, or on Tishri 10. (Tishri corresponds approximately to September-October.) --Insight, Vol. 1, page 213 "Atonement Day"*

Now, what did the High Priest have to do on this occasion? According to Mosaic Law, he was required to WASH himself ceremonially. Notice how the *Insight* book brings out the details:

*On the annual Day of Atonement, after presenting the sin offerings, the high priest would wash and change garments, taking off the pure white garments and apparently putting on his beautiful garments, including the ephod, before offering up the burnt offerings.—Le 16:23-25.--Insight, Volume 1, Page 736 "Ephod, 1"*

In order of events, then, we have John confirming that the "Lamb of God" is being presented, and then Jesus, as "High Priest" washes and changes into the "beautiful garment" represented by the flesh-and-blood he would offer up in propitiatory sacrifice of atonement. This sacrifice meets with Jehovah's approval, for He Himself acknowledges His Son on that occasion in that role as the "Lamb of God" by saying that He "has approved." (In other words, only in THIS sacrifice is there approval for having met the requirements of Divine justice) (Confer Matthew 3:17; John 3:16)

Thus, Jesus does, indeed, demonstrate why he had to undergo baptism, in order "to carry out all that is righteous." The Atonement is fulfilled through the Christ (Romans 5:10)

Jesus was not presenting himself in dedication, but was presenting the sin offering, that being his flesh. He underwent baptism, or washing, as was required (under Mosaic Law) by the High Priest who was offering that sin offering. Later, that sin offering would be "burnt up" by being put to death outside the city, just as the antitypical sacrifices of the Day of Atonement were offered up outside the city.

I hope some of this makes sense, as I am still trying to take it all in and may not have explained things as well as I would like. And, as I mentioned, there is still much reading to do in this thread; therefore, someone else may have already pointed all this out.

Submitted for your consideration.

Philia,  
Timothy