

15. How were the Ephesians baptized after hearing Paul's preaching?

Acts 19:5 _____

There is no record in the Bible of anyone baptizing in three separate names of three individual persons. Now there are three possibilities that could explain this. 1) The disciples were in direct rebellion against Jesus and purposely disobeyed His command. 2) The disciples understood the command of Jesus differently than most Trinitarians understand it today. 3) Jesus never gave the command to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The most logical and reasonable of these possibilities is choice number two. If we use His statement to teach people that God is a trinity, then we are doing the opposite of what He told us to do. This would contradict what Jesus and the rest of the Bible writers taught. Jesus Himself said that His Father is "the only true God" (John 17:3).

16. Into what are we baptized?

Romans 6:3 _____

It only makes sense that we should be baptized in the name of Jesus, for He is the one who died for us.

17. What are we to be baptized with, in addition to water?

Matthew 3:11 _____

"Baptize" means to immerse. Jesus was not giving a formula to be recited at baptism, for if that is what He intended, none of His disciples obeyed. Jesus wanted us to fully immerse people into the truth about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit just as He taught. Peter fulfilled this commission on the day of Pentecost when he said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). We are to have "repentance toward God [the Father]" (Acts 20:21), be baptized into Christ's death, and then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For a free subscription to a monthly Bible study paper, or other literature, contact:

Smyrna Gospel Ministries

Present Truth Department

577 Eden Park Ave.

Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714 USA

Phone: (407) 291-9565 -or- (304) 633-5411

E-mail: info@presenttruth.info; **Web Site:** www.presenttruth.info



Questions Answered (Part 1)

Lesson 11

In the last ten lessons we learned that "there is but one God, the Father" (1 Corinthians 8:6), that Jesus Christ is "the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18), and that the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of your Father" (Matthew 10:20), coming to us "through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3:5, 6). We also learned that Jesus Christ died, both soul and body, for God made "his soul an offering for sin" (Isaiah 53:10) and that God, the Father, "raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:20). Despite the overwhelming biblical evidence on these points, there are some verses that seem to contradict these statements. In this lesson we will examine some of these verses.

John 1:1

1. Who was with God in the beginning?

John 1:1 _____

2. Who is the Word?

John 1:14 _____

3. What happened "in the beginning"?

Genesis 1:1 _____

The term "the beginning" was used several times in the Bible, and must have reference to some point in time, it must be the beginning of something. John does not tell us what beginning he was talking about,

but simply said, “in the beginning.” John later wrote, “the devil sinneth from the beginning” (1 John 3:8). This agrees with the words of Jesus where He said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning...” (John 8:44). We know that the devil was not a murderer nor a sinner from the beginning of his own existence, for God said to him, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” (Ezekiel 28:15). So the beginning was not Satan’s beginning, but the beginning of this world.

Some people have mistakenly concluded that the text should read “*Without beginning* was the Word.” However, there is no basis for this conclusion. The exact same Greek phrase is used in the following texts: “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at *the beginning*” (Acts 11:15). “Now ye Philippians know also, that in *the beginning* of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only” (Philippians 4:15). In each case “the beginning” has a specific reference to the beginning of something. “In the beginning” when God created the world, “the only begotten of the Father” was with God.

4. What was the Word?

John 1:1 _____

The Word was with God and God at the same time. It is certain that the Word was not the same God He was with, for you cannot be with yourself. Biblical Greek Scholars generally agree that the second time the word “God” is used in John 1:1, it is used as a “qualitative noun” to describe the qualities of “the Word.” Harner says that nouns “with an anarthrous [no article] predicate preceding the verb, are primarily qualitative in meaning.” (*The Journal of Biblical Literature*, Philip B. Harner, article “Qualitative Anarthrous Predicate Nouns: Mark 15:39 and John 1:1.”) “The clause could be translated, ‘the same nature as God.’ This would be one way of representing John’s thought, which is, as I understand it, that ho logos [‘the word’], no less than ho theos [‘the God’], had the nature of theos.” (*ibid.*)

Matthew 28:19

5. Who are we supposed to teach?

Matthew 28:19 _____

6. What are we supposed to teach them?

Matthew 18:20 _____

7. According to Jesus, who is God?

John 8:54 _____

8. What did Jesus call His Father?

John 17:3 _____

9. What did Jesus say about His own identity?

John 10:36 _____

10. What did Jesus call the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 10:20 _____

Compare Matthew 10:18-20 with Luke 12:11, 12, and you will notice that “the Spirit of your Father” and “the Holy Ghost” are the same. Jesus said that we should “teach all nations” to “observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” In order to fulfil this great commission, we must teach people the same thing that Jesus taught, especially concerning the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

11. How did Jesus say we should baptize?

Matthew 28:19 _____

12. How did Peter say we should be baptized?

Acts 2:38 _____

13. How did the brethren in Samaria get baptized?

Acts 8:16 _____

14. How did Peter say the Gentiles should be baptized?

Acts 10:48 _____

“The Lord” in the New Testament almost exclusively refers to Jesus Christ. “But to us there is but one God, the Father,... and one Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 8:6).