

Doctrinal Digression!

Church History 04



John

14:6

***I am
the Way***





Acts 20:30 *From among your own selves* men will arise, **speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after them.

1 John 4:1 Test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.

2 Tim 4:3 They **will not endure sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.

1 Tim 4:1 The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits & **doctrines of demons**

Speak Where the Bible Speaks

Deut 4:2 You shall not **add to** the word which I am commanding you, **nor take** away from it..

Deut 12:32 Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; **you shall not add to nor take away from it.**

Matt 15:9 But in vain do they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.**

Rev 22:18-19 If anyone **adds** to them...
if anyone **takes away** from the words of the book ...take away his part from the **tree of life**...

Water Baptism Essential in the Bible

Acts 2:38 Repent, and let each of you be **baptized ...for the forgiveness of your sins**

Acts 22:16 Arise, be baptized & **wash away sins**

WATER BAPTISM

1 Pet 3:21 Baptism does **now save you.**

Titus 3:5 He saved us...by the **washing of regeneration** and renewing by the Holy Spirit

John 3:5 **Unless one is born of water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Baptism for *Forgiveness* was clearly Understood by saints for 350 Years

1. Hermas : “Your life will be **saved through water**
c. 140AD (Shepherd of Hermas ; Bk 1; vision 1; ch3)

“We descended into the **water** & received the
forgiveness of former sins.
(Shepherd of Hermas, Bk 2; command 4, chap 3)


“They descend into the **water dead** & they arise
alive. (Shepherd of Hermas; Book of Visions; vision 2;
similitude 9, ch 16)


Baptism for *Forgiveness* was clearly Understood by saints for 350 Years

2. Justin Martyr: 110 -165AD “ We...may obtain **in the water the remission of sins formerly committed.** There is pronounced over him who chooses to be born again, & has repented of his sins, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe.” (1st Apology, chap 61)

3. Tertullian: c 210 AD “We are **immersed in water** - we are **set free from our sins.**
(Tertullian: On Baptism ; Ch 7)

Baptism for **Forgiveness** was clearly Understood by saints for 350 Years

4. Tertullian: " But **we**, little fishes, after the example of our IXΘΥΣ * (ik -thoos FISH) **Jesus Christ, are born in water.** 
written c. 210AD (On Baptism ; Ch 1; Introduction)

* (fish Acronym  Statement of faith.
I = Iesus; X = Christos; Θ = Theos; Y = Son; Σ = Savior)

Basil the Great 379 AD "For prisoners, **baptism** is ransom, forgiveness of debts, the death of sin, **regeneration of the soul...**"
(Sermons on Moral and Practical Subjects 13:5).

Baptism for *Forgiveness* was clearly Understood by saints for 350 Years

5. Revised Nicean Creed; 381 AD. "We affirm..
one baptism for the remission of sins"

(Adopted by First Council of Constantinople; 381 AD).

6. Apostolic Constitutions; 390 AD. "Likewise contented with ***one baptism*** alone... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

"For the Lord says: Unless a man be ***baptized*** of water & of the Spirit, he shall by no means enter into the kingdom of heaven.." [see John 3:5]

Apostolic Constitutions Bk 5; Sec 3; chp 15

But Now Infant Baptism is Advocated



Irenaeus 180 AD “For He came to save all through means of Himself--all, I say, who through Him are born again to God—**infants**, and children, and boys, and youths, and old men.”

Against Heresies, Bk 2, Chp 22. 4.

Hippolytus of Rome c. 215AD: “They shall baptize the little children first. And if they can answer for themselves, let them answer. **But if they cannot**, let their parents answer or.. family.” *Apostolic Tradition, 21.*

But Now Infant Baptism is Advocated

Origen 244 AD; “The Church received from the apostles the tradition of ***baptizing infants too.***” Commentary on Romans, 5.9

Origen 248 AD “Every soul that is born into flesh is soiled by the filth of wickedness and sin. . .

“In the Church, baptism is given for the remission of sins –according to the usage of the church baptism is given even to infants. If there were nothing in infants which required the remission of sins & nothing in them pertinent to forgiveness, the grace of baptism would seem superfluous.”

(Homilies on Leviticus 8:3). Argued Practice to Doctrine !!



But Now Infant Baptism is Advocated

Cyprian of Carthage; 253 AD.

“Then should an **infant** **NOT** be held back, who, having but recently been born, has done no sin, except that, born of the flesh according to Adam...



“He has contracted the contagion of that old death from his first being born. For this very reason does he [an infant] approach more easily to receive the remission of sins: ***because the sins forgiven him are not his own but those of another.***” (Letters 64.5).

Argued From a “Fallen Nature”

But Now Infant Baptism is Advocated

John Chrysostom; 388 AD:

“You see how many are the ***benefits of baptism***, and some think its heavenly grace consists ***only in the remission of sins...***



But we have enumerated ten honors [it bestows]! ***For this reason we baptize even infants***, though they are not defiled by [personal] sins, so that there may be given to ***them holiness, righteousness, adoption, inheritance, brotherhood with Christ***, and that they may be [Christ's] ***members.***”

Baptismal Catecheses in Augustine, Against Julian 1:6:21

Argued From Additional Blessings—not from *Faith*** !**

But Now *Infant Baptism* is Advocated

The Apostolic Constitutions;
compiled about 390 AD.

**“Baptize your infants also &
bring them up in the nurture
and admonition of God.”**



**“For He says, “Allow the little children to come
unto me and do not forbid them.” 7.457**

**But Jesus wasn't baptizing
babies—he was Touching
them (Mk 10:14) saying
that “The kingdom of God
belongs to such as these.”**

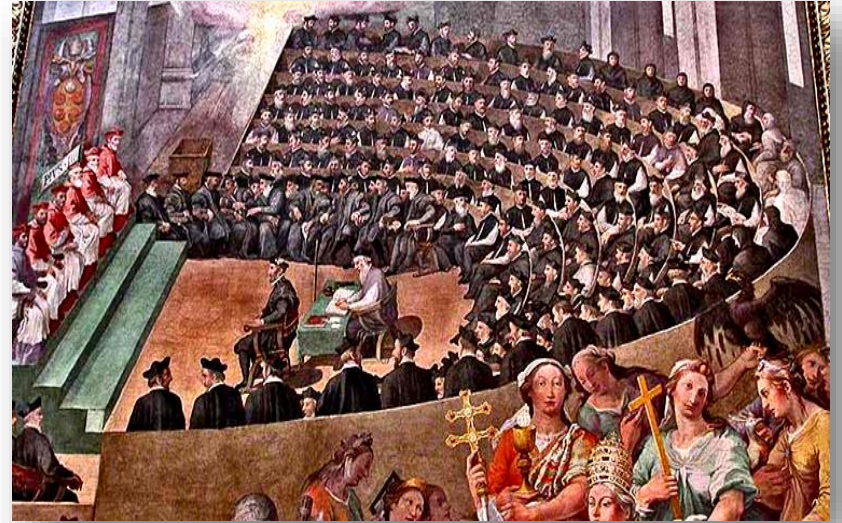


Didn't Jesus know the rascals were in Original Sin”

Now **Infant Baptism** **Becomes Law !**

Council at Carthage, 418AD

“Whosoever **DENIES** that **infants** newly from their mother’s wombs **should be baptized**, or says that baptism is for remission of sins, but that they derive from Adam no original sin... **let him be anathema.**” *Canon 110*



It starts by **elevating** one man as bishop over elders
Then the Bishops meet to **clarify** national beliefs.
Now national councils of Bishops **Make Laws !**

Now *Infant Baptism* **Becomes Law !**

Tertullian 220 AD, argued
against Infant Baptism
200 years prior Carthage,
but he was Not victorious.

“The Lord *does* indeed say,
Forbid them not to come unto
me. *Let them come, able to
know Christ.* Why does the
*innocent period of life hasten
to the remission of sins?*”

On Baptism, chap 18



**Tertullian is
later branded
as a heretic !**

Sprinkling / Pouring Replaces **Baptism**

The Bible is Clear that Baptism ***was by Immersion***

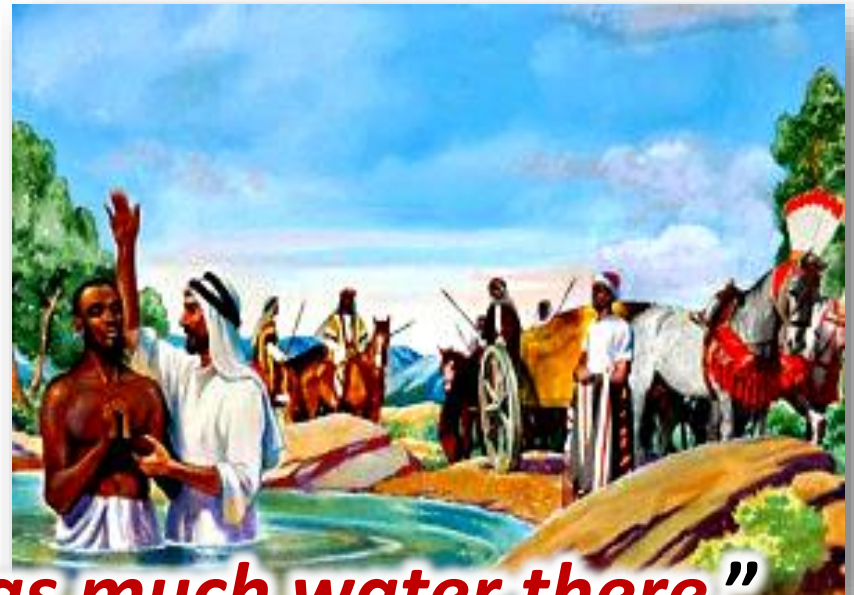
The Greek word Baptizo means to “**IMMERSE.**”

***Strong's' Lexicon: 907 Immerse, submerge;
to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet)***

Acts 8:38-39 Both went
down into the water..

Rom 6:4 “***Buried*** with
Him through baptism”

John 3:23 “Baptizing in
Aenon..because there ***was much water there.***”



*Sprinkling / Pouring Replaces **Baptism***

Early Believers Agree Baptism *was by Immersion*

Tertullian: 220AD “Baptism is a bodily act, because *we are immersed in water*... We are set free from our sins.” *On Baptism, 7.*

Tertullian: 220AD “It makes no difference whether one is washed in the sea or in a pool, a reservoir a fountain or a tub.” *On Baptism, 4.*

Origen: 250AD “You *descend into the water*.. Having washed away the filth of sin, you *come up a new man*, ready to sing a new song.”

Homilies on Exodus, 5.5.

Sprinkling / Pouring Replaces **Baptism**

Clinical Baptism became ***pouring / Sprinkling***

Eusebius: Novation fell seriously ill and was thought to be about to die. In the bed.. ***On which he was lying he received grace by water being poured around over him.***



If it is proper to say that such a one received it.

The bishop was opposed by all the clergy & many of the laymen, since it was not lawful for someone who had received pouring in bed on account of sickness to become a member of the clergy. But he asked to allowed to ordain this one alone.

Church History 6.43.14 . Letter from Cornelius, bishop of Rome.

Sprinkling / Pouring Replaces **Baptism**

Clinical Baptism became ***pouring / Sprinkling***

Cyprian: 250AD. “***We think*** the define benefits can in no way be mutilated or weakened.. Nor ought anyone to be troubled when the sick persons seem ***to be sprinkled or poured upon...*** when it appears that the sprinkling of the water holds equally with the washing of salvation.”

(Epistle 69)



The Restoration *Principle*

Isa 8:20 ***"To the law and to the testimony!***
If they do not speak according to this word,
it is because there is no light in them." NKJV

Jer 6:16 "Stand in the ways and see , ***and ask for
the old paths, where the good way is,*** and walk
in it. Then you will find rest for your souls.
But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' NKJV

1 Peter 4:11 "If anyone speaks, let him
speak as the oracles of God." NKJV

Speak Where the Bible Speaks