

Message# 272_1-21-2024 - "Baptized in the Name of..."

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

Right away, I need to tell you of an urgent prayer request and to ask for continued prayer. I received an email from Mindy yesterday that was shocking - both to me - and particularly for what they are going through right now. It's such a mystery. So strange. Doug - who is 54 years old - seems to be as healthy as can be. He's fit. He's active. Mindy describes him as "the fiercest man/warrior that [she's] ever met, 8% body fat, mass of muscles, most giving heart, endures all things" - but is in the hospital fighting issues they could never have imagined. He has some heart circulation issues that are causing some very serious issues. Please pray earnestly for Doug that the source of this problem will be removed and they can get out of that place - I know it was so painful for them to even go there - but sometimes - when we can't seem to figure out things on our own - it can be wise to go get help. I've never said we should never go to the world's "doctors" - ever. I have said that their trauma, emergency rooms are very good. They are good at emergencies. Then, once the emergency is over - I have said it's a good idea to get away from them as soon as possible. And that is what Doug and Mindy are striving for as well.

Please remember to keep Ron in your prayers. Seems like the poor guy just keeps going from one thing to the next. I have not received an update from him this week - but last week he said he was having some setbacks.

Please keep Chrissy in your prayers. I didn't go into detail with her birth last week and I won't this week. But I will tell you - and again - for reasons that we have no idea right now - Chrissy had a very difficult delivery. She labored for more than 50 hours before delivering precious little Josie Rose - Teresa and my 6th grandbaby. Josie is doing great. Chrissy is on her way back - but it could be a little while. So please keep Chrissy and Jerry in your prayers, and baby Josie. Teresa is pretty much with Chrissy from the early morning until night. Pray for strength for her as well.

Teresa and I got to see baby Kody this week for a little while. Kody is three weeks old now. Big sister Poppy is just as cute as can be and Taylor is doing great. Thank you for those prayers as well.

Did you hear that the Peregrine lunar ship came back to “earth's atmosphere” this week? Yeah. So sad. And, of course, it got completely burned up on “re-entry.” Sure it did. Amazing how that works. Recovered from the bottom of the ocean - then sent back up only to come back all burned up and disintegrated. Of course, that's just my supposition. I've seen plenty of those rocket launches and funny how they don't seem to go straight up. They lift off, then pretty much turn to the left in an arching manner. Oh well.

Did you hear that the Japanese actually did land on the moon? That's what they say. Of course, their solar panels aren't working right now so they can't get the data transmitted back to them - but - they did land on the moon this week.

Now, this really makes the whole thing strange. I mean, why would all these countries seem to be conspiring with each other to propagate lies? That really could never happen, right? Of course it couldn't. Except for that little snag, that little fly in the ointment called the World Economic Forum. Who, in their right mind could believe that many nations around the world could come together to try to make decisions affecting every single person that lives on the earth? That's just crazy to think that nations could come together like that.

I'm telling you, Christian friends, we better understand Authority, we better get this right - right now - we better start living - not just talking about “the Lord” - the One Who is Supreme in Authority - because we live in a world where virtually no one cares about - or even realizes what Jesus Christ was saying in Matthew 28:18 - when He declared - as plainly, as clearly as anything else He said - in fact - Matthew 28:18 was the summation - it was the conclusion - it was basically - the last thing Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended to Heaven. One of the last things.

Friends, there is no “church water ritual” in Matthew 28:18-20. The most important, the foundation upon which the “Great Commission” is based - is in verse 18 -

All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.

Try as they may, the “church” has separated verses 19-20 from 18 - turning the “Great Commission” into a “church water ritual” - as opposed to what Jesus really was saying. He was saying

All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. [Now, go therefore - therefore

- because of what I just said - because I have proven that I have been given All power in Heaven and in earth - Go ye therefore - and teach all nations that All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.]

That's what Jesus was saying. That's what He was instructing His disciples in the "Great Commission." Through all that we've been saying now - it should be very easy to see how the "church" has focused on a "church water ritual" - as opposed to what Jesus really meant.

"Teach them, wash them, immerse them, totally consume them, bury them, bombard them, drown them, in the teaching, teach all nations that I have all power in Heaven and in earth."

"Consume them with the knowledge that I have ALL Authority. Not just some, not just a part, not shared, I have ALL Authority in Heaven and in earth."

I'm telling you that that is the Gospel. That is what is supposed to be preached in all the world, to all the nations. And, if that's what people were taught, that they were required to believe - the world would be a totally different place than it is today - at least in the generation that was told that is the Gospel.

When men and women boys and girls ask the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" If the answer was, "Believe that Jesus Christ has All power - All Authority in Heaven and in earth - and immerse yourself into that belief - consume yourself in that belief - take up the cross and follow Christ" - if that's what the answer was - the world would be a far different place than it is today.

Instead, through the work of that monstrosity called "church" - the churchmen have changed the truth of Matthew 28:18-20 into making people believe that all Jesus was telling His disciples to do was to go throughout the world and perform "church water rituals" included with an incantation of mere words - thereby deceiving people into believing they have eternal life because they have participated in a religious ritual.

The Christian life is not a religious ritual. The Christian life is one that takes up the cross - the symbol of the death penalty - not because of living a life of actual sin - sin against violating the Law of God - but because the world's nations consider anyone or anything that is an affront to their contrived "authority" - their in all reality power - that has only come from the barrel end of a gun - the world's nations view affronts to their positions

as seditious, treasonous, rebellious - and they always treat perceived rebellion to their guns - as capital "crimes." No true follower of Jesus Christ that I have ever known - has committed murder, rape, kidnap or other capital sins in the eyes of God. No true follower of Jesus Christ that I have ever known or known of - has committed acts worthy of a death sentence. Yet Jesus knew exactly what happens when His followers leave the world and follow Him. Leaving the world, leaving the "unauthority" of the world - can mean a life sentence of feeling hunted, feeling pursued - like lion's prey.

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Friends, that is the Gospel. That is the foundation of the Gospel and it's exactly the message that Christ is concluding in His Matthew 28:18 - "Great Statement." Do we believe that Jesus has All Power - All Authority - to the point where we would deny our self. Following Jesus is a denial of one's self. Taking up our own cross and following Jesus means we are following the One Who said He has All Authority. Whose or what's "authority" does 99.9% of this world follow?

Denying self. Taking up our own cross, following Jesus, means we are obeying Matthew 28:18. Believing - which true belief - brings about action - believing that Jesus Christ has All Authority - All Power - that is the Gospel. That is what Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and teach to all the nations.

Turn to Matthew chapter 10 for just a few minutes, please. Begin with verse 1.

[1] And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

[2] Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

[3] Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican [former publican, tax collector]; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

[4] Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

[5] These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

[6] But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

[7] And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

[8] Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Stop here for a minute. Conspicuously missing in the Words of Jesus in all the Gospels - in fact - I showed you verses of Scripture where it said - except for a few of His Own disciples - "though Jesus 'baptized' not" - when we see physical H2O water in the Bible - we are seeing people fulfilling the Law God gave Moses. That's where the application of physical water to the flesh was required. Cleanse the lepers in verse 8. What was the Law concerning leprosy - wash the clothes, bathe the skin - Leviticus 13 and other chapters in the Old.

What you will see - very conspicuously - when we shake off the false teaching that every time we hear the sound bapto - like Pavlov's dogs - we can only think of a "church water ritual" - what you will see - over and over and over in the teachings of Jesus Christ - is to forsake the world - forsake the world's usurped "authority" and follow the Lord - the One Who is Supreme in Authority. Verse 9.

[9] Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

[10] Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

[11] And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

[12] And when ye come into an house, salute it.

[13] And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

[14] And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

[15] Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

[16] Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Friends, it doesn't have to be this way. In the New Covenant World - it does not have to be this way. But in generations that have refused the All Authority of Jesus Christ and have embraced the usurped "authority of the world" just like the generation we are in today - verse 16 - is exactly what followers of Christ experience today - when they deny themselves, take up their own cross, and follow His Authority. We - and again - I say it

over and over - doesn't have to be this way. But we have been living in many generations now - where the biggest majority of people living - are living delusionally in their thinking - that they have been given all “authority”, they have been given “all power” - and they have the power to define good and evil according to their own whims - and they then can force other people to obey their definitions - or else. And I lay this blame - this delusion - this deception - at the feet of every single “preacher” in the last 350 plus years - who has failed to stand - stand against threats of jail, stand against threats of loss - they've failed to stand on the Words of Jesus Christ - and understand what the Gospel according to Jesus Christ was and still is.

“I'm sending you into the wolves. Into the men who believe they have all power, they have all authority - and I'm telling you to go among them and preach, teach and live - that I have All Power - I have All Authority - and you teach all nations whatsoever things I have commanded you.”

Friends, that's not the easy way. That's not the worldly way. That message doesn't make you rich, it doesn't make you popular. And, the truth is, it may cost you your life. But that is what Jesus Himself said was the belief system that brings about eternal life, brings about salvation.

It's no wonder people prefer their rituals. You have two choices - your own personal cross - or a “church water ritual” - which do you prefer? I'm telling you today - that the Gospel and the Words of Jesus Christ have been so subverted - that the choice isn't even offered. True baptisma has been removed from the Word of God in most people's Bibles - to the point where the only thing left - is the “church water ritual.” Which is simple. It's easy. No need to know the teachings of Jesus Christ - not when a much more palatable substitute is available.

[17] But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

[18] And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Does this not happen today because the majority of people in the U.S. are living according to the Authority of Jesus Christ? That's the only way it could happen. The only way the righteous would not be persecuted in one generation or another - would be if the majority of people were accepting, believing and living according to the exclusive Authority of King Jesus. Look at verse 18 again.

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

What testimony is against the governors and the kings of the earth? What testimony is there against the Gentiles?

The Gentiles exercise authority over others - but among you it shall not be so.

Listen to how the Wycliffe Bible translates that verse:

But Jesus called them to him, and said, Ye know, that [the] princes of heathen men be lords of them, and they that be [the] greater, use power on them [and they that be more, haunt power on them].

The Geneva has it this way:

Therefore Iesus called them vnto him, and saide, We knowe that the lordes of the Gentiles haue domination ouer them, and they that are great, exercise authoritie ouer them.

This is not God's Authority. This is their own "authority". It's their own power. Young's Literal says it this way:

and Iesus having called them near, said, `Ye have known that the rulers of the nations do exercise lordship over them, and those great do exercise authority over them,
20:26 but not so shall it be among you,

Now look back again at Matthew 10:18

[18] And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

I'm telling you, friends, it's about the Authority. Who has it? Do men have it? Or does God have it? Men can and have - subverted the teachings of Paul from Romans 13 and Peter from I Peter chapter 2 - but the Words of Jesus are as clear as can be.

Men do not have authority from God to claim dominion over other men with their own

definitions of good and evil, right and wrong. The “rulers of the nations are wrong - and Jesus told His disciples to testify against them. And, if America is such a “Christian nation” - this should be easier than ever for people who claim to be Christians to understand -

but among you it shall not be so.

If you call yourself a Christian, “among you it shall not be so.” And it is your responsibility to testify against the governors and kings that they should not be exercising their own usurped “authority” over other men.

Please listen to me. I want to make this as clear as I possibly can. Just this week, someone said something to me - that tells me - they did not fully understand what I'm saying. Men can - in fact they are commanded by God - men can exercise Authority over other men - when those men break God's Laws. You can't murder. You can't rape. You can't kidnap. You can't steal. You can't commit perjury. And if you do - men are commanded by God to bring about justice.

Men are not allowed to break God's Laws.

But when men make their own “laws” - their own “statutes” and try to force those “laws and statutes” on other men - that is what is not allowed. Men's “laws and statutes” are their definitions of good and evil, right and wrong - and that was Adam's fatal mistake in the garden. Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - you shall not eat. That was not God telling Adam he had to be stupid - or he shouldn't know the difference between right and wrong. That was God telling Adam you do not get to decide what is right and what is wrong. That belongs exclusively to Me - and you shall not eat of that tree.

God's very few Laws for men - are contained in a comparatively tiny little Book. The one I have is not even two inches thick. And it covers every single “sin” that men can commit. We don't need books and books and books of “laws” that reach to the sky and back. All we need are Godly men that know how to judge according to the Laws and Perfect Will of God. It's that simple. And that is the testimony that Jesus was telling His disciples to stand for when they were brought before the councils of men.

I've said this before. I would be the first to “back the blue” - if the blue were capturing and bringing to justice people who broke the Laws of God. People who damaged other

people, harmed other people, stole from other people. But when they go beyond their charge, when they go beyond what they are allowed to do - and they begin to enforce "their laws, and their treaties, and their statutes, and their 'laws of the land' - they have exceeded their boundaries and Christians are commanded by Jesus Christ to testify against them. That's what taking up their own cross means. That's what denying one's self means. That's what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

No one cares whether someone has partaken in a "church water ritual." There is nothing that would cause someone to be brought before the councils of men - to be brought before the world's governors and kings - for punishment - because of a "church water ritual." And that is not what Jesus ever talked about. He talked about His Authority, His Power and standing against the "rulers of the world." He was talking about Matthew 28:18 for His entire ministry. Matthew 28:18 was the summation of His ministry - and after His death, burial and resurrection - His declaration to His disciples was - "There, I have proven it to you. I have All Authority in Heaven and in earth - now go and consume people in My Authority." Verse 19, Matthew 10.

[19] But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

[20] For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

[21] And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

[22] And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

[23] But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

[24] The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

[25] It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Oh. So this is what Jesus meant by using baptisma later on in Matthew chapter 20 when He told His disciples they would be baptidzo in the same way as He was? Friends, that is exactly what He was saying. This is what the baptisma of Jesus Christ from Mark 10 and Matthew 20 is. Go back up to verse 22:

[22] And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

What does name mean?

[22] And ye shall be hated of all men for My Authority's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

When you preach My Authority in a generation that loves to exercise their own authority over each other - when you preach My Authority - when you tell men what they are doing is wrong - you will be hated by all of them. His name's sake is not a sound that comes out of a mouth. There is no power, no authority in a sound. It is living by the Authority of Jesus Christ. That's the Power. That's the Authority. Anyone can say a sound. It's all about the Authority of Jesus Christ -

in Him we live and move and have our being.

He is the all-in-all. He is the Only Potentate and King. He does not share with anyone or anything. We have bounds of our habitation and we are to stay in those boundaries. And, we are to teach all nations that they have boundaries and they are supposed to stay in those boundaries. It's the Authority - it's the Name of Jesus Christ.

Very few people today live and move and have their being - their reason for existence - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. And that's why we are in the shape we are in. Verse 26. Listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

[26] Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

[27] What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

[28] And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

[30] But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

[31] Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

[32] Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in Heaven.

[33] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven.

[34] Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

[35] For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

[36] And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

[37] He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Now watch, listen. These are the recorded Words of Jesus Christ. Are we going to yield to them? Are we going to believe them? Are we going to immerse ourselves in these teachings? Are we going to be baptisma wherewithal He was baptidzo?

[38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.

Friends, again. He didn't say take up His cross - as in the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ had not even taken place yet. This is before Jesus was crucified. This was before Jesus had been executed by the state. Jesus had already taken up a cross that He wanted His disciples to take up. This was all about the Authority of God. This was all about the Authority of Christ. This cross that He's talking about was each man's personal, individual cross of standing up for the Authority of Christ in a world described as wolves.

I found that description a little curious. Wolves - as in the animals - typically try to avoid people. Mr. Thayer says that the reason the word wolves is used there is because it was typical of that time period and earlier used to describe *"figuratively to cruel, greedy, rapacious, destructive men."* I know, from my own experience, standing for the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ among men who claim their own authority - usurped as it is - feels like being in the presence of cruel, greedy, rapacious, destructive men.

[39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.

[40] He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me.

[41] He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a

righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

[42] And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

In the last two messages, I've consistently said something that was not entirely accurate. If you were to read the transcript from last week's message - you'd see that the mistake was corrected.

I mistakenly said that baptisma had been removed from the English Bibles in Matthew chapter 20 and in Mark chapter 10. That is not accurate. And, upon recognizing this, it actually broke my heart further. What I should have been saying is that baptisma had been removed from Matthew chapter 20 - but it was still in Mark chapter 10 in the modern English Bible.

The reason that broke my heart - and I don't know if you could sense this from the messages - was because I was trying to find an excuse for what I believe are the sincere people who have failed to include the baptisma that Christ defined in Matthew 20 and Mark 10 when they were trying to find the One Baptisma of Ephesians chapter 4.

My reasoning was, the compassion I was trying to show, if they were reading from Bibles that had the baptisma of Christ removed from it - then - I can see why they would only believe in the water baptisma of John. And, try as I may, try to extend grace, try to reach those who have failed to see the baptisma of Jesus Christ from Mark 10 and Matthew 20 - the reality is - when we were in the early chapters of Mark and Matthew - where I was showing 3, 4, 5 different baptisms - other than the water of John the Washers - from those chapters alone - these men should have been able to see that the baptisma of Jesus Christ was different than the baptisma of John the Washer.

But, after looking again, and seeing that baptisma and baptidzo are still in the Mark 10 chapter of the modern English Bible - though not in the Matthew 20 chapter - it's once again painful - and such a head-scratcher as to why these people refuse to include the baptisma that Jesus so clearly defined in Mark 10 and Matthew 20 - when discussing the One Baptisma of the New Covenant in Ephesians chapter 4.

Even in the modern versions of English Bibles - the baptisma of Jesus Christ is still in Mark 10. It's been removed from Matthew 20 - but it's still there in Mark 10. No

excuses. There are no excuses for refusing to include Mark 10's baptisma in the discussion. But they do. And it's not right.

And, I'm telling you friends, to act like Jesus' Own definition of baptisma from Mark 10 is not in the Bible - even though it is still in the modern versions - is the reason why people think today - that men have "authority". That men have power - and what's worse? That their "authority" is ordained of God.

Jesus was preaching, was commanding, that His disciples teach all nations that He has All Power, All Authority in Heaven and in earth - and that people are to be immersed into this knowledge.

Now, I will tell you that some, maybe a lot, of preachers have their pet verses, their favorite books and chapters and verses - and if someone is hanging the foundation of their ministry on Matthew 28 being a "church water ritual" - and they begin to work backwards from Matthew 28 - to John the Washers baptisma of Matthew chapter 3 - they will not see the baptisma of Jesus Christ found in chapter 20. If they are using a modern English Bible - and they do not compare Matthew and Mark - if they start at the beginning of Matthew and work towards the end of Matthew - they won't see Jesus Christ Himself defining baptisma in chapter 20.

The way I discovered that baptisma was still in Mark 10 of the modern English Bibles is because I went back and looked again at where the Greek texts came from that were used for the English Bibles from 1885 backwards - and then from 1885 forward with the Revised Version, that's where I found it. I have a copy of Westcott and Hort's Greek text. I was reading there in Matthew 20, then compared it to Mark 10.

Recall please, the reason I was so bothered with the 1885 Revised Version. It was advertised as being just a simple upgrade from the Old English of the 1600s to the more modern English of the 1800s. Upon closer examination, I found that to be not just a misstatement - but a complete lie. The Revised Version did not just update the Old English - it came from a completely different set of Greek manuscripts. It came from what is called the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus texts.

Now, I'll tell you, years and years ago - so long ago that I have forgotten more than I remember, I went through all these debates concerning the Greek texts. I told you last week, that all the English Bibles pre-1885, came from the Textus Receptus. But the modern versions beginning with the Revised Version came from Wescott and Hort.

These Greek texts were found in the Vatican - one of them actually found in a trash can in the Vatican. As a side-note - who has the most to gain from stripping baptisma and baptidzo from the text? I do wonder why, though, it remained in Mark 10. Anyway, this is from Wikipedia concerning the Westcott and Hort texts that were found in a trash can in the Vatican.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westcott_and_Hort

The New Testament in the Original Greek is a Greek-language version of the New Testament published in 1881. It is also known as the Westcott and Hort text, after its editors Brooke Foss Westcott (1825–1901) and Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828–1892). Textual scholars use the abbreviations "WH" [1] or "WHNU".[2] It is a critical text, compiled from some of the oldest New Testament fragments and texts that had been discovered at the time.

Westcott and Hort state: "[It is] our belief that even among the numerous unquestionably spurious readings of the New Testament there are no signs of deliberate falsification of the text for dogmatic purposes." [3] They find that without orthographic differences, doubtful textual variants exist only in one sixtieth of the whole New Testament (with most of them being comparatively trivial variations), with the substantial variations forming hardly more than one thousandth of the entire text.[4]

According to Hort, "Knowledge of Documents should precede Final Judgments upon Readings". The two editors favoured two manuscripts: Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. They also believed that the combination of Codex Bezae with the Old Latin and the Old Syriac represents the original form of the New Testament text, especially when it is shorter than other forms of the text, such as the majority of the Byzantine text-type.[5] In this they followed one of the primary principles of their fledgling textual criticism, lectio brevior, sometimes taken to an extreme, as in the theory of Western non-interpolations, which has since been rejected.[6]

I know that when I was faced with the choice - Textus Receptus and the old versions - versus Westcott and Hort and the new versions - when I was faced with that 40 years ago - I chose to stick with the old English versions. It just wasn't conceivable to me that God would hide his Word for hundreds of years from English speaking people. Which is what the conclusion you have to come to if you choose the modern versions.

I am concerned, as I said a minute ago, with what I believe was a marketing lie. Making

people think the Revised Version was just an update to the English of the 1800s - when - digging further - we find that more than 30,000 changes were made. There's not 30,000 thees and thous in the Old versions.

The Older versions contained baptisma and baptidzo in Matthew 20. The newer versions do not.

Now. I'm going to go ahead and tell you this. And I'm sure it's so - I think I can recall from years ago - there are possibly better English texts found in the newer versions than in the Old KJV. That would not surprise me if my memory were to be refreshed on the issue. But this business of removing baptisma and baptidzo from Matthew chapter 20 is so monumental - it must be addressed.

Removing baptisma and baptidzo from Matthew 20 - I believe - is one of the biggest reasons why the baptisma of washing people into the Authority of Jesus Christ has been changed to nothing other than a "church water ritual" that is powerless to save.

So....if you have listened to any message where I said that baptisma was removed from Matthew 20 and Mark 10 - I stand corrected - at least in regards to Mark 10. It has been removed from Matthew 20 - at least from the years after 1885. Prior to 1885, baptisma was in Matthew 20 - but 1885 on - it has been removed - and that is not right - in my opinion - it's not right.

Open your Bibles again, please, to Matthew chapter 28. Read beginning with verse 18.

Reading from any English Bible prior to 1885. They all say pretty much the exact same thing.

[18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptidzo them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Young's Literal Translation of the 1860s has an interesting way of translating these verses. Still based on the Greek Textus Receptus, it has it this way:

And having come near, Jesus spake to them, saying, `Given to Me was all authority in Heaven and on earth;

Now listen to this:

28:19 having gone, then, disciple all the nations, (baptizing them -- to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Did you catch that?

(baptizing them -- to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Remember I told you the Greek word for in - was eis - and it typically meant into.

28:20 teaching them to observe all, whatever I did command you,) and lo, I am with you all the days -- till the full end of the age.'

Green's Literal Version which is from 1993, but still based from the Textus Receptus,

And coming up Jesus talked with them, saying, All authority in Heaven and on earth was given to Me.

28:19 Going, then, disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age. Amen.

Verse 18 - Jesus says

All authority in Heaven and on earth was given to Me.

Then, in verse 19,

Going, then, disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

It's not baptizing them into water. The declaration becomes Whose Authority is He talking about? Into the name of - into the Authority that belongs to Jesus Christ. The

Authority - the exousia - of verse 18 - Mr. Strong defines

ἐξουσία exousía, ex-oo-see'-ah; from G1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:—authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Then, the onoma, the name - the exousia is in Jesus the Christ. The disciples were to first understand that all force, all capacity, all jurisdiction, power, right, strength - was given to Jesus and that force, that jurisdiction, power, right, strength - was to be immersed upon all the nations. All Authority is in the name of Jesus Christ.

Immersing them into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This is not a "church water ritual." This is compelling men and women boys and girls to forsake the force, forsake the capacity, the masterys, the magistrates, the power, the strength of the world - and consume themselves - drown themselves - overwhelm themselves in the capacity, in the mastery, in the power, in the strength, in the right of the One Who is named Jesus the Christ.

I'm telling you this baptisma - the baptisma of being placed into the name of Jesus the Christ - is the baptisma that Jesus was defining in Matthew chapter 20. Of course, for those with modern English versions - they'll have to go to Mark 10 to find it - because it was removed from the English Bibles from Matthew chapter 20.

Turn back to Matthew chapter 20, please. Read beginning from verse 21.

[21] And He said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom.

[22] But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptidzo with the baptisma that I am baptidzo with? They say unto him, We are able.

[23] And He saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of My cup, and be baptidzo with the baptisma that I am baptidzo with: but to sit on My right hand, and on My left, is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of My Father.

From these verses on, Jesus, in continuing with His ministry, immersed those Who were

listening with more and more understanding of His Authority. He explained to His disciples that they were not to exercise authority in the manner of the Gentiles. In healing the two blind men - the expression of Lord - calling Him Lord - the One Who is Supreme in Authority - is stated several times in just a few verses. The Lord, Thou Son of David - emphasizing even more Authority.

Moving on to chapter 21 we see Jesus declaring again that He is Lord - the One Who is Supreme in Authority. We see Him being called King. We see Him as the Son of David - the rightful heir to the throne. We see Him taking Authority of the temple. In this chapter we see the issue of His authority clearly stated in verses 23-27. It's all about His Authority.

After last week's message, I received an awesome email from Jeff pointing to verse 42 where Jesus pointed directly to the Scriptures - directly to the Authority in calling Himself the Head of the Corner, the Chief Cornerstone, the Stone from the Book of Daniel - the Messiah King.

Then, as we turn the page to chapter 22, we again see Jesus establishing His Authority even over the highways. In chapter 22, we see Jesus taking Authority over Israel and over Jerusalem and the Old Covenant Kingdom. And we see Him declaring His Father's Authority to remove those from the Kingdom who did not embrace the Son - clearly referencing Himself.

Then, in verses 15 through 22, we see Him calling people out of the authority of Rome and back into the Authority of His Father. Verse 15:

[15] Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle Him in His talk.

[16] And they sent out unto Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that Thou Art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest Thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Friends, examine their question. They aren't saying they believe the things Jesus had been saying, they are simply reiterating the things they heard Him say or what others had told them He had said.

“You teach the way of God - exclusively. You do not care for any man - that means you do not see one man as having power over another. You see all men as equals” - and

what I mean by that is that men are not to exercise dominion over one another. That's what Jesus taught. That's what they are saying here. Men are not to rule over one another. Thou regardest not the person of men. There are not to be rulers over each other. Jesus said the servants are the ones that are greater. Not the other way around. Titles of nobility. Not so in the Kingdom of God. We are all to be subject to the Laws of God equally. There's not a set of "laws" for us and a set of "laws" for them. There is no divine right of kings in the eyes of God. Those were the things that Jesus taught - and these guys are trying to set Jesus up to say that Caesar was wrong. Caesar was not to be respected. Caesar was not to be cared for. Look at the text. I'm not saying things that are not here. They were trying to get Him to openly rebel against Caesar.

But don't forget - Jesus had told His disciples earlier - that when they were among the wolves - what were they to do? Be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. And this is what we are about to see.

[17] Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

[18] But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye Me, ye hypocrites?

[19] Shew Me the tribute money. And they brought unto Him a penny.

[20] And He saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

[21] They say unto Him, Caesar's. Then saith He unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

[22] When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left Him, and went their way.

Why did He ask whose image and superscription was on the coin? And I guess a question that should be asked before that one, is why didn't He just pull a coin out of His own pocket? Turn to Exodus chapter 20. Begin with verse 1.

[1] And God spake all these words, saying,

[2] I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

[3] Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

[4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

[5] Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me;

[6] And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

Yes. Jesus was taking Authority over Rome in Matthew chapter 22 and everyone knew it. You won't believe how I am going to close this message this morning. It's the proverbial "even a blind squirrel finds a nut sometimes." I know what this Render unto Caesar passage is talking about. I know you know what's talking about. But listen to this. This is actually taken from a message from - believe it or not - a Catholic priest.

<https://www.cathedralatl.org/sermons/whose-coins-are-in-your-pocket/>

I must confess, though, that I can't remember a time when my stock responses have ever persuaded anyone who didn't already agree with me. Sometimes the conversation gets more heated, and sometimes it just ends. But, after it's all over, I often feel like I'm standing at the bottom of the stairs wondering about what I should have said, how I should have witnessed to my faith.

Jesus, it turns out, has an answer for this tendency. His response to the question about paying the poll tax to Caesar reminds us not only that he always seems to know what to say, but also of how people like me might go about treating our tendencies toward staircase wit.

It's not a friendly conversation, of course. It's a trap. And, Jesus knows it. The Pharisees have already decided to get rid of him. They're just looking for a way to do it.

Their entrapment strategy is elegantly simple. They flatter Jesus by reminding him that he is known for telling the truth regardless of the consequences. Then, they ask him for a legal opinion. Is it lawful to pay the despised tax to Caesar? In other words, is it in line with the Torah? If Jesus says "yes," he will offend the religious authorities. If he says "no," he will offend the political authorities.

Jesus, though, refuses to commit himself.

I disagree with that statement. I believe Jesus absolutely committed Himself and

everyone knew it - but He had answered so smartly - that He shut the mouths of everyone there. The priest continues:

He asks to see the coin used for the tax. The tax must be paid with Roman coin. And, the Roman coin is stamped with the image of Caesar and inscribed with a legend that proclaims him to be the son of a god.

Funny how the Baptist “preachers” that I grew up with never knew that, or at least never said so. It actually doesn't take much study time at all to find out this is exactly what was on the coin.

The tables are turned the moment that they produce the coin. It was probably the Herodians who had the coin.

Well, the text actually says as much.

They were royalists, who wanted to restore the Judean monarchy, and didn't mind collaborating with the Romans. You do what you've got to do.

The Pharisees were more patriotic Jews. They would have considered even having the coin to have been an act of idolatry. You must be pure. And, to be pure, you must avoid doing anything that signals loyalty to a deity other than God. Carrying around a Roman coin would have been considered to be a violation of the second commandment.

Agreed. I agree with that Thou shalt not have any graven images - Exodus chapter 20. This is coming from a catholic priest saying this stuff.

When Jesus says, “Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that belong to God,” he isn't just showing off his rhetorical skill, or making a philosophical statement about the separation of church and state. It's much more personal than that. He is questioning their loyalties. He is calling them idolaters. He is telling them “to repay the one to whom you are indebted.”

So, when I find myself at the bottom of the stairs, wondering about what I should have said, how I should have witnessed to my faith, I think that the Christ is often there too, but asking another question,

“Whose coins are in your pocket?”

That, I think, is the question that Christ is asking,

“Whose coins are in your pocket?”