

Message# 290_5-26-2024 – Immersed in the Authority of Christ

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

Some of you have asked how Chrissy is doing and we certainly appreciate that - I know she and Jerry do. She seems to be having a few more better days than she has - but she is still having some issues that are restricting her quite a bit. She and Teresa have been trying all sorts of things and Teresa is saying that the latest things they are trying seem to be showing some signs of improvement. We would ask you to continue praying for Chrissy so that she could be back to 100% again. Josie is now more than 4 months old. She's doing great. There's never been any issues with Josie. She's growing like crazy, smiles a lot, makes lots of noises and she's just beautiful.

Many of you have asked about Taylor. Kody was born two weeks before Josie was. Everything about Taylor's delivery seemed to be just perfect. Her recovery was very fast and she's doing great. That baby boy - he's just amazing. He is - no doubt - the smiliest baby I have ever seen in my life. It is so much fun having him in the house. You just look his direction and he immediately has the biggest smile you've ever seen on a baby. Taylor, Kristopher and Poppy will be here for a weekend and you might hear him cry once, if at all. Poppy's such a joy, too. She's a talking machine and just as cute as can be. It's hard to believe in a few months, she'll be three years old.

Sara sent me some pictures this week and let me know that our grandson, Oliver finished first - number one - out of 80 kids in his Bible trivia contest at his homeschool co-op. That is really awesome!

I heard from Doug recently. He said his recovery is going well. The surgery on his leg has finally healed and he's doing a lot better. They are back in Michigan now and we hope to see them again this fall on their travels back to the southwest.

I told you a few weeks ago that Jeff reported some great strides with the eye floater issue he was dealing with.

I did not know until just a couple weeks ago that Joanna was dealing with a very severe issue - and either had pneumonia or was on the verge of developing it and she'd been trying to fix that issue herself - which I would certainly expect - but it was not getting better.

As soon as I heard about that I did reach out to her. As you know, I've told you many times before, I am not typically of a mind to initiate contact with people. I may be wrong about that - but it's just the way my life has developed over so many years. I'm just not comfortable forcing myself on people. I feel like if they want to contact me - they will. If someone doesn't contact me - then I just assume it's because they don't want to talk to me. I've told you before how that used to bother me so much. And I'd then contact that individual - and - well - when I found it that they didn't want to talk to me anymore - it was hurtful. So, after going through that for so many times in life - you tend to accept it and go on.

I do not believe - I could be wrong - I'll say that - but I do not believe that I have had people drop me as a friend - not because I have wronged them in some way - at least they've never told me that - but it's been because they don't like the way I live or the way I preach - and they just decide it's better for them not to be friends with me any longer. I've accepted that. I get it. And it's okay. So, if people want to have me a part of their life, they maintain contact with me and that's great. But when I don't hear from someone for a long time - I just assume they've decided they don't want me to be a part of their life and the friendship has ended.

Don't get me wrong. Even though I accept this - it's still not enjoyable. I don't like it. But I have learned to cope with it and move on.

Getting back to Joanna. I didn't know how sick she was. But when I found out and when I found out that she believed she was on the verge of pneumonia, I did initiate contact with her and gave her some advice - whether she wanted it or needed it. And, my advice may not have been correct, but I did want to share something with her from my own experience.

When our youngest son was about 3 or 4 years old, he got sick. By that time, Teresa had successfully treated all our children, including our youngest son, and nothing ever serious came up with any of the children. But this time, our youngest son was not only not getting better - but no matter what Teresa did - he was getting worse. It got very scary, very quickly. It got so bad, that we were minutes away from rushing him to a hospital, but at the last minute, someone told us about a doctor who claimed to be a Christian - and we got a hold of him and he told us to rush him over as fast as we could.

When we got there, he confirmed to us, well, what we already knew, that our son was very very sick and the worse could happen to him. This doctor actually told us that he

preferred herbs for treatment. That shocked us. This doctor was an MD. He wasn't a chiropractor, he wasn't a natureopath, he was an actual MD. But he told us that he preferred herbs over drugs - which just blew our mind. But he said that our son was so sick, there just wasn't enough time for herbs. He told us that our son needed the strongest antibiotics that he could prescribe because he was literally on death's door. So, we left there and went straight to the pharmacy and got the prescription and gave it to our son immediately.

We actually began to see improvement soon - and within 24 hours - we had seen great improvement. It sure seems like I've told you this story before and if you've heard just bear with me. Teresa and I were distraught over this to say the least. Our children were born at home. We treated illnesses with herbs. We ate right. Our children had never had a Coke. Our children had never been to a McDonald's. The children were usually the healthiest of any children we knew. But, with all that, we almost lost one of them. And that was very difficult to handle.

This all started with an ear-ache, an ear infection. Because it was not treated correctly, It continued to get worse - until he had developed full-blown pneumonia - which was also not being treated correctly because we didn't even knew he had it. We had no idea what had happened. Long story short, Teresa had had great success in the past with Goldenseal and echinacea. But this time, it did not work and we were totally perplexed about that. Come to find out, the health food store that we bought it from down here - we bought the wrong kind. The health food store in Indianapolis sold the Goldenseal and echinacea for children in an alcohol base - the health food store down here sold it in a glycerine base. We found out later, that for children - they needed the alcohol base. Almost a year to the day later of this episode that I'm telling you about, our youngest son started getting sick again - Teresa gave him the Goldenseal Echinacea in the alcohol base and he recovered very quickly.

So, I said all that to say this, if you are sick, and you've been trying all that you know to do to get better and it isn't working - there's no shame in going get help. And I'm not at all saying that's not what Joanna was doing - but as much as we dislike their medical world - it is a fact that they do a pretty good job with emergencies. It's just that, after the emergency is over, we probably should get as far away from them as we can - but in an emergency type of situation - they do a good job. They are good at fixing broken bones, they're good at helping people survive traumatic injuries, car wrecks, etc. I told Joanna - even though she didn't ask for my opinion - but in this instance - when I found out she had been struggling with an illness and she was concerned that it was headed

towards pneumonia - I told her what happened with us and she should go get help. If we can't fix something, I just don't believe there's anything wrong with asking for help. And, just because we ask for help - even it's from an unbeliever - if we don't agree with them - that doesn't mean we have to do what they say if we ask them for help.

I like to do all my own electrical work. I like to do all my own plumbing work. I used to like to do all my car repairs. If I don't know how to fix something, I go on youtube all the time and watch videos that people put up there with useful information. I've fixed all sorts of things by getting information from other people - even from unbelievers. I just don't see that - and if I'm wrong - I'll certainly fix it - but I don't see things like that as violations of the Scripture. So, for whatever that was worth - or even if it wasn't worth anything - I found value in it for myself.

Joanna has reported that she is doing better. The trauma of being put through the terror of the unGodly road pirates didn't help her much - but she is reporting that she is doing better and I would ask that you continue to keep her in your prayers. I don't know if I told you or not, but she did get her call back and that was an answer to prayers.

We haven't had anyone else ask to be put on a prayer list lately.

This past week, I saw an article that's headline caught my attention.

[https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/new-cars-california-alert-drivers-breaking-speed-limit-110450150#:~:text=A%20bill%20in%20the%20California,10%20mph%20\(16%20kph\)](https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/new-cars-california-alert-drivers-breaking-speed-limit-110450150#:~:text=A%20bill%20in%20the%20California,10%20mph%20(16%20kph))

*New cars in California could alert drivers for breaking the speed limit
A bill before California lawmakers would require new cars sold in the state in coming years to beep a warning whenever drivers exceed the speed limit by at least 10 mph*

Of course, those people who believe they should have paid, full-time “lawmakers” - that's their job - they are hired by the idiot people to do nothing but sit around and think up new “laws” - have - and this one is so transparent - because they absolutely have an agenda for more and more control - and eventually - they want to have the ability to track every inch - and every foot - every mile that someone goes in their vehicle - then tax them accordingly - beyond the obvious understanding that it's about control - about knowing every single thing their cattle is up to - where they go - what they do. This idea of alerting someone when they break the speed limit is a major step

for them in gaining more control.

As I read the article, one of the things that jumped out at me was again - how stupid are the people who put up with this? How do they not see through this and see what these people are actually up to? They make dumb dumb statements - and I guess their people are just so much dumber - they don't see it - just blindly accept it and allow it to happen. The statement by their "lawmaker" was, well, let me read the first two paragraphs, quote:

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California could eventually join the European Union in requiring all new cars to alert drivers when they break the speed limit, a proposal aimed at reducing traffic deaths that would likely impact motorists across the country should it become law.

(Law) A definition of good and evil, right and wrong. My comment!

The federal government sets safety standards for vehicles nationwide, which is why most cars now beep at drivers if their seat belt isn't fastened. A bill in the California Legislature — which passed its first vote in the state Senate on Tuesday — would go further by requiring all new cars sold in the state by 2032 to beep at drivers when they exceed the speed limit by at least 10 mph (16 kph).

And again, this is what I've said many times before, when you give these people one inch - that's all they need - and the saying "Give them an inch, they'll take a mile" is so true. And, listen, now, I'm not saying that an alert beep on a car as a seat belt reminder is a bad thing. If you wear a seat-belt - and you want to be reminded if you forget - who cares if that's on a car or not. And, the fact that they would equate an advanced GPS tracking system with a seat-belt beep alert - is again - proof that they are stupid - and the people who just believe what they say - are just as stupid. That is not apples and apples. Not even close. When I said what I said, I'm talking about giving men's little g "governments" any control over your life. You can't give them an inch. You can't compromise with them. You can't submit to them one little bit. When you do - even the slightest little bit - they'll use that to gain more and more and more.

Surely, I've told you this before. Back in the 1970s, when Lester Roloff was going through all of his trials - he used to say - "I'll never take a license to run our boys and girls homes. The blood washed 'church' of Jesus Christ will never take a license from the state." Then, the judge asked Lester Roloff, "do you have a license from the fire

marshal? Do you have a license from the health department? Do you have license plates on your 'church buses?'" "Well, yes." You've taken licenses from all these other government agencies, it's apparent that you really don't have a problem taking a license at all, do you?"

Listen, in Him we live and move and have our being. We aren't supposed to yield the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives to anyone or anything. Before we continue, turn to Exodus chapter 20 quickly, please. The famous 10 commandments chapter. Everyone believes in the 10 commandments, right? 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.

Again, and again and again, if you have never looked up the word "gods" in a Bible dictionary, if you do not understand that this means the little g "governments" of men - there is simply no possible way you can understand the rest of the Bible. Or, if you are of the ilk - using that word in the most disparaging way I can - if you are of the ilk of the likes of Andy Stanley - and many others in the "church" world - if you have unhitched yourself from the "Old Testament" you will without any doubt - not understand that

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Means, we are not to set up our own little g "governments." Then, by the time you do arrive at the part of the Bible that you believe is the only thing you need - you will again - have absolutely no idea what Jesus is talking about when He used the Greek word Ekklesia, or the Greek word bas-il-li-ah when He talked about His Kingdom and used the exact same word that everyone else around Him used and understood to be as Government. Jesus Christ came to this earth to take the throne of David. He came to set up His Own Government and since that time it has been the responsibility of every living breathing creature to come out from the gods of this world - the little g "governments of this world" and into the Government, into the bas-il-li-ah of Jesus Christ.

But because people like Andy Stanley and so many others have told people to unhitch themselves from the myths of the "Old Testament" - they then have absolutely no understanding whatsoever of what it is that the God of Creation wanted His Creation to understand.

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

Rulers, judges, magistrates.

The religious world loves to argue and fuss and fight over the Sabbath Day. And they want to make sure that everyone is obeying their version of a physical 24 hour Sabbath day - but when it comes to the very first commandment - now - God must be referring to tiki god statues made of elephant tusks where the naked tribes people of the darkest parts of Africa place in their straw huts and fall down and worship. That is not the enduring principle of the very first commandment - thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

The enduring principle of Thou shalt have no other gods before Me - has never been unhitched from the God of Creation. That principle is the main principle of the entire Word of God. That is the entire purpose of Creation. That's why God created people. It was for the purpose of having people that would obey Him as their God, Him exclusively as their God, and they would not create to themselves their own gods - rulers, judges, magistrates.

So ridiculously simple. Verse 4:

[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.

The God of the Bible is a Jealous God. Turn to Exodus chapter 34, please, begin in verse 1:

[1] And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

[2] And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to Me in the top of the mount.

[3] And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

[4] And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

[5] And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and

proclaimed the name of the LORD.

[6] And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

[7] Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

[8] And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

[9] And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for Thine inheritance.

[10] And He said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

[11] Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

[12] Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:

I guess my problem in life, since I was a very young child, was that I learned these Scriptures and hitched myself to them and have not been able to unhitch. I admit it, have no problem admitting it - but when I was a little kid - first reading these verses - I didn't understand the implications of them upon becoming an adult. But I'll tell you this - when I became an adult - whether that was 20 or 21 - I believe there is ample evidence from Scripture indicating that when boys turn 20, they become men - but around that age - when I began to be drawn into the world of adults and I began to be compelled to make covenants and make agreements with the little g "governments" of the world - these passages flooded back into my mind and I then began to understand them as God intended for them to be understood.

Making agreements, covenants, licenses, etc., etc., with men's little g "governments" is exactly what God commanded Moses to tell His people they were not to do. And if a man's Bible knowledge is not based, founded, grounded, rooted in these principles - he's not going to understand the Bible. He's not going to understand the purpose of the Messiah. He's not going to understand the Government of God.

The little g "governments" of men by design - whatever that thing called "Satan, the

devil, whatever that was” it was the motive behind the little g “governments” of men. From the day God told Adam and Eve that they were not to make up their own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, whatever that serpent in the garden was illustrative of - it is the spirit of that serpent, that devil, that Satan - to be the impetus behind “Did God really say that? Did God really say you aren't allowed to make your own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong. You really can be your own law-maker, right. You really can be the one who defines good and evil, right.” Verse 13.

[13] But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

[14] For thou shalt worship no other god:

No other elohim. No other judges, no other magistrates, no other rulers.

for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

The very name of our God is Jealous. Why? Because He is a jealous God. In the Hebrew, the word jealous is defined as not bearing any rival; the severe avenger of departure from Himself.

The reason I'm not reading from the Septuagint is because it says pretty much the same thing as the KJV. He's a Jealous God. He wants exclusive worship and exclusive obedience. In the Greek, the word is dzay-lo-tace and it means

one burning with zeal, a zealot; used of God as jealous of any rival and sternly vindicating his control; most eagerly desirous of, zealous for, a thing; to acquire a thing, (zealous of); to defend and uphold a thing, vehemently contending for a thing

Mr. Thayer defined dzay-lo-tace as

1. absolutely, for the Hebrew זָקַף, used of God as jealous of any rival and sternly vindicating his control:

What does that mean? It's right there in the word control. Governments control people. Government - the control of the mind, which then causes the body to do this or that.

Our God is a Jealous God and He wants absolute control over His Creation. And while we are trying to advocate for His control - His exclusive control - we are faced on every hand with men's little g “governments” demanding control. The Bible - the theme - from cover to cover - is that God is a Jealous God who shares His control with no one or no thing. If we don't understand Exodus 20 and Exodus 34 - we'll never understand the Government of Christ. We'll never understand Romans 13 or I Peter chapter 2. Romans 13 and I Peter chapter 2 are not to be unhitched from Exodus 20 or Exodus 34. That's

suicide to do such a thing.

In the California article concerning the speed alert in the cars mandate. When I got to the third paragraph and read the brilliance of one of their “law-makers” it just shows again how far out of touch with reality these people are. When you believe that you are allowed to make your own definitions of good and evil, the Bible says you will go insane. The Bible word is mad - but it means insane. This man actually made the following statement.

“Research has shown that this does have an impact in getting people to slow down, particularly since some people don’t realize how fast that their car is going,” said state Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco and the bill’s author.

Are you serious? Listen, if their people drive their cars and don't realize how fast that their car is going...you've got a far greater problem than just putting a beep alert to let them know they are going faster than 10 miles per hour over their speed limit. I mean, is this even true? As idiotic as it sounds, do they really have people driving around in four thousand pound wrecking machines who don't even know how fast they are going?

I've been driving around in four thousand pound wrecking machines for close to 50 years now - and I don't think I've ever - not once - not known how fast as I was going. Does he mean some of their people are just oblivious to speed? They don't even look out the front windshield and they have no ability to sense whether they are going fast or slow, too fast, or too slow? This is so stupid, I don't know what they guy is trying to say. He needs a new “law” - a new definition of good and evil, right and wrong - because people have lost the ability - or maybe some of their people never possessed the ability to sense how fast they were going? Wow. Like I said, I think they may have bigger problems than what they realize.

But then again, I was at the store not long ago, and the young girl at the cash register owed me 78 cents. She knew she owed me 78 cents, her cash register told her so. But she did not know how to count out the 78 cents and give it to me. I'm sure she comes close to a panic attack whenever someone hands her cash. “Can't you just use a card like everyone else, so I don't have to count 78 cents?” It's incredible that this is what their world has become - and so few people even have concern for it.

And speaking of cards, that just shows you far out of touch I am. I saw a young girl pay for her gas yesterday by just holding her phone next to the credit card reader. And it sounded a beep and off she went.

Oh how I hope for more things to happen like what happened in Wichita Kansas a few weeks ago when their whole electronic system for the city was hijacked. Apparently their "citizens" couldn't pay their bills, cops couldn't write tickets, oh what a tragedy.

Cash, let's get rid of that and make all payments electronic. You know, because electricity never fails, computers never quit, and only criminals use cash, anyway.

I heard one of the saddest things the other day. I was speaking to a friend of mine. He's getting older. He's 70. I could be mistaken, and I don't really want to take the time to make sure I get this right - but I always thought in their world their retirement age was 65. But this friend of mine is 70 - and still working. Working because he wants to - but planning to quit working in a couple of years. He decided that he wanted to start socking away some extra money before he retired - so - he told his "government" he wanted to go ahead and start collecting his social security money. You know, that money that they took from him for 50 years - whether he wanted them to take it or not - and - he went on and bypassed it at age 65. So, he, at 70, five years past 65, was going to take the money so he could "double-dip" for a couple years before he officially retired. So he could have that much money for when he quit working.

Well, little did he know, and to which he was visibly upset - and rightfully so - it was actually painful for me to hear his story - but when he told his "government" that he was ready to start taking what he was told all his life - was "his money" - he found out that because he was still officially not "retired" - if he took "his money" his social security "money" - he could have it alright - but it would be taxed at 80%. Unbelievable. How sad. You know what he said to me? He said the only option he had was if he wanted to keep working - and collect "his social security money" - he'd have to find someone to "pay him in cash." Well, fat chance for that.

How sad. But that's the way it is in their world. I told him, think about this, think about people older than you who were forced to pay into "social security" before 1965. They were paying into that system - the money was just taken from them - but at that time - the value of one "dollar" was a silver dollar. This week, silver was over 31.00 per ounce. But, their "social security" system is not paying people back "their money" based on what they paid in prior to 1965 - they are being paid back with the value of their dollar today. This is one of the greatest examples of theft - of organized theft - the world has ever seen - but because the "government" is doing it to people - then somehow it is God-Ordained.

The God of the Bible said Thou shalt not steal. And since that God has been unhitched from His Own Words - today it means - if the "government" is doing it - even if it is theft - then it's okay. It's God Ordained. Theft is God Ordained and it must be allowed. It must be condoned and all the people must participate in it and live with it - because to resist this sin - is to resist God Himself.

Men's little g "governments" with all their systems - including - and foremost - with their religious system - the "church" - the religious arm of the state - has turned the God of Creation into the biggest lie the world has ever known.

Friends, if the God we serve today - has unhitched Himself from the God He was in the "Old Testament" - then we are the biggest bunch of fools in the world today.

I believe this morning will be the last "official" message in this series on being immersed in the Authority of Jesus Christ - although - just like Bible prophecy, just like the word Ekklesia - obviously - we'll speak on those things - more than likely - in every message until we stop preaching.

But I want to say this to you. I have not singled out a preacher or a specific "church" as a target for that series. And, this series has not been out of response from a specific preacher or a specific "church."

It is my belief that pretty much the entire world has been duped into believing that the immersion that Jesus was speaking of in Matthew chapter 28 - was physical H2O water - as opposed to another "baptism" that has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with physical H2O water. And I believe we are in the shape we are in today - listen - not just the world - but every single one of us. Every single one of us today are outside the plan of God because the world that surrounds us - is so far removed - unhitched from the God of Creation - because of years and years of denying Christ, of denying the God of the Bible, of creating their own definitions of good and evil, right and wrong, and the Psalmist wrote:

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

The foundations of what the God of the Bible intended for His Creation have been destroyed. Heaps and piles of rubbish have been laid on those foundations - and it seems as though there's just a few people that are there with their hand shovels trying to get back to those foundations. We're digging and digging and digging - all the while

knowing that there are guns pointed at us and men and women just waiting to pounce at any opportunity - but we have no choice but to continue - because we understand that being baptidzo into Christ means that we are buried with Him in death - consumed by, overtaken by, captivated by - fully entrenched in His Authority - instead of the power of men, the little g “governments” of the world.

The baptisma of Jesus Christ, in conclusion today, open your Bibles to Matthew chapter 28. Begin please, in verse 16.

[16] Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

[17] And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him: but some doubted.

[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 [baptizing] 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.

As I proved, over and over and over in the very long series on water in the Bible, I proved that it is wrong, it is an absolutely fatal mistake to - whenever you hear the sound bapto - or any variation thereof - to instantly have this mental picture of a “church water ritual” come into your mind. The truth is, the sound bapto can refer to something to do with physical H2O water - but that is actually rare.

Now listen, right now I'm not talking about anything in the Bible, anything in the Spiritual. I am talking about the Greek word bapto and the several other Greek words based on that root word. The word can mean physical H2O water - but that is actually rare.

When we see John the Washer - and whatever it was that he was doing.

When you talk with most “church” people - you cannot even get most of them to understand that statement - “whatever it was that he was doing” - because they already have that mental picture that was drawn for them by the “churchmen” and they've lived with that mental picture all their lives - it is nearly impossible for them to even think something different. There is nothing - not a single thing in our Bibles that definitively declares what it was that John the Washer was doing when he was

“baptizing.”

And the reality is, if anyone tries to tell you what he was doing, and they know beyond a shadow of a doubt - they are lying. And if they won't admit that - I'll just say it - they are a liar. There's nothing in the Bible that declares what John was doing.

As I proved again - the closest thing you can get to is from the Law God gave Moses - which is exactly what John was doing - we can say *that* beyond any shadow of a doubt - and there were specific things in the Law that required physical H2O water. For instance, the Law concerning leprosy. And we know, the Bible tells us - leprosy - whatever that was - was rampant in the first century. And according to the Law God gave Moses in the Book of Numbers, the remedy for leprosy contained the washing of the clothes and the bathing of the flesh. But exactly what that looked like, we cannot say.

We do see Elisha telling Naaman - when Naaman had leprosy - we see Elisha telling Naaman to go and bapto himself seven times in the River Jordan. *That* example is one of the clearest examples of bapto in our Bibles. That, of course, destroys the “church” narrative because Elisha told Naaman to go and “baptize” himself. There was no one with Naaman. There was no religious incantation. He “baptized” himself.

This, I believe, is one of the reasons why, when I was in “Bible” college - no professor ever - not once - told me that bapto was first found in the Greek Septuagint - long before John the Washer arrived on the scene. If people knew that to be the case - then the “church doctrine” - and you want to talk about manmade doctrines - but the idea that John the Washer brought something new to the scene in the first century - that lie would be obliterated if people were told that bapto is the word that was used when Elisha told Naaman to go and dip himself seven times in the River Jordan in order to fulfill, “This is the Law concerning leprosy.”

Whatever it was that John the Washer was doing - had been around for as long as God had given Moses the Law - and - even before - because before Moses event went up the mountain - God told Moses to tell the people to come together and wash their clothes. It seems as though it was some sort of physical cleansing ritual. It wasn't just physical - it was tied to a religious experience. So what John the Washer was doing, was a religious ritual that was tied to the Law God gave Moses. It is a horrible teaching that will lead to bad consequences - to say that John brought something new to the scene.

If it was new, it would have been adding to the Law - something that God had expressly forbidden - unless - you have an agenda of unhitching from the God of the "Old Testament" - which - friends - Andy Stanley did not bring that theology around. The theology of unhitching from God is exactly the theology that the serpent tried to instill in Adam and Eve - "did God really say?"

John - as clearly as anything ever was in our Bibles - made the statement - while he was leading those Israelites into a return to the Law God gave Moses - he said -

"All I'm doing is washing you in physical water, but the One Who is coming after Me - the One to Whom all the physical attributes of the Law God gave Moses was pointing to - He is going to wash you with something totally different than what I am washing you with."

Friends, I realize that is my paraphrase, but that is exactly what John was saying. Anyone that disputes that is more than welcome to dispute it all they want to. In that case, we'll just go back and read it exactly the way he said it - and it will be exactly what I paraphrased. John said, "I am doing this, but Jesus will do this". That is as simple and clear as can possibly be. We just need to get "church" and the "churchman" out of the way and let the Word of God speak to us.

These are the same men that say that Jesus was "baptized" as our example. My word. What absolute blasphemy! Jesus Christ was not "baptized" for the remission of sins. And to say that we should be "baptized" because Jesus was - is complete blasphemy. Jesus Christ undertook a water ritual because He was fulfilling the Law God gave Moses as part of the requirements of men at age 30 who were entering the service of the temple. Jesus Christ was not "baptized" because He needed to repent of His sins. He had no sin. I can't stress to you enough how important it is that you understand this. And if you'd heard from me a thousand times - then we all need to hear it another thousand times. Because there are some very unlearned "preachers" and people in this world who continually say that because Jesus was "baptized" we should too. And then they think that lends credibility to their manmade doctrine concerning water - and the truth is - they damn people to being lost because that's what happens when people place their trust in the physical waters of a "church" water ritual instead of placing their trust in the Living Waters of Jesus Christ which means being immersed in the Authority of Christ.

So I said all that again because it is simply not the case that when you hear the sound

bapto - you are supposed to think only of a “church” water ritual. When Jesus stated in Matthew 28:18-20 and used the Greek word baptidzo - He was not using that word in the sense of physical water. He was telling His disciples to immerse people into the name - into the Authority of Jesus Christ. This was not bapto as in the rare sense of the understanding of physical water.

When the Bible tells us it's talking about water - as in John the Washer - “I am indeed washing you in water” - that's easy. That's the rare instance where the sound bapto can mean physical water.

But Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 He's not talking about immersing in water. He says - baptidzo them in My Name. That is immerse in His Name - in His Authority - physical H2O water is not even mentioned in Matthew 28.

In verse 18 Jesus is talking about His Power. He's talking about His Authority.

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

That is the substance of the following verse. That is what He's talking about. I'm trying to get people to look at the entire Bible for context. You can't take one verse out of context. You can't unhitch from the entire left side of the Bible - and think you can understand the whole thing. And in this instance, you can't unhitch verse 19 from verse 18. The subject, the whole conversation that Jesus is having with His disciples in concerning the profound truth that Jesus is telling them He has been given All Power in heaven and in earth - now therefore - because of what I said to you - because of what I demonstrated to you in the last 3 and a half years - because I was arrested, tried in a sham trial, executed by the state - but rose again because I even have the power to conquer death - because My Father is the Creator of the world and all that's in it - and the sun, the moon, and the stars, and the water above the earth and the water under the earth - and because I and My Father are One - and because My Father said that men are to bow to and serve exclusively Him and His Laws and His Government - and bow to and serve no other - I am now therefore telling you - to go into all the world and immerse people into these beliefs.

He did not tell His disciples to go and play “church” with people. He did not do all that He did to tell people to go and set up weekend social organizations. He told His disciples that the times in which God allowed men to walk in their own ways is over. He told people to return to the God of Creation. To obey Him. To obey His Laws. His

Statutes, His Commandments, His Ordinances and no one else. He is a Jealous God. His name is even called Jealous. He wants His people to live and move and have their being exclusively in Him.

It is beyond sad that the world today thinks that Jesus Christ came to this earth to do all that He did - and that the sum of it all is to see people participate in a "church" water ritual and that's what it's all about. Well, we see what the "church" water ritual has given us. It's given us a world that not only doesn't care one bit for the Authority of Jesus Christ - but it mocks and ridicules the Authority of Jesus Christ and anyone who dares stand for and lives in the Authority of Jesus Christ.

I am telling you today that placing your trust in physical H₂O - or physical blood sacrifices - of which both are identical - they are both elements of the Old Covenant Law God gave Moses - if you have placed your trust in either - in the New Covenant World in which we live - you need to repent. You need to beg God to forgive your sins of ignorance - renounce the physical water - and embrace the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

I don't have to tell you how serious this is. This is life and death. The world, with all of their systems and the religious world they have created to go right along with it - is in place to lead people away from the true baptism of Jesus Christ - the One Baptisma of Ephesians chapter 4 - which is being immersed, fully consumed by, fully overtaken by - a life of yielding to the exclusive Authority of Jesus Christ.