

SCRIPTURE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 3

Fr Lk 2:52. **MATTHEW 3:1.** In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Mt 3:2. And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (or is near).

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 3

MATTHEW 3:1. The Scriptures now take us forward about 27 years. **Jesus would have been around the age of 30.**

REPENT

Mt 3:2. The very first word Matthew's Gospel used that John the Baptist said is "**REPENT**". Regrettably, this first step to salvation is now left out in many very deceived churches and by many evangelists. Some think that it may offend some people. This word is used in 37 verses of scriptures. Lk 13:3,5 makes it very clear. Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Then it is repeated a second time: **EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.**

John is calling the individual to repent. He is calling the nation of Israel to repent. He is calling you to repent.

The reason given is the kingdom of heaven was near. This is referring to the Messianic kingdom that was promised by the prophets. However, it became apparent that Israel did not want this kingdom.

Regarding salvation: **first** one must acknowledge they are a sinner. Some will not do this. For them there is no hope. For those that do acknowledge they are a sinner, these must repent.

What does repent mean? It means to forsake and turn away from all your sins. It means a person stops practicing sin. It means to do an about face.

Connected with this is to feel godly sorrow or regret, or remorse for your sins. This causes a person to want to change from the inside out. A change of both your mind and heart takes place that results in a change of action. Some break down and cry over their sinful condition, as they

are offered hope through the shed blood of Christ.

To be saved is to turn to Christ as your only possible hope of being saved, repent, and seek for His mercy. As it is written THOU SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME-Mk 10:48. It means you cease from following the world and begin following Jesus which includes His Word.

The Scriptures show that those that are forgiven much will love Jesus much, but to whom little is forgiven, the same will love little-Lk 7:47.

Many turn to Jesus, but do not turn away from their sin. They live with a false hope. Any person that continues to practice sin, has not known Jesus-1 Jn 3:6.

In connection with this, a desire to immerse yourself in God's Word also takes place. Faith which is needed only comes from the Word of God-the Bible. Repentance and faith go hand in hand. John the Baptist commanded that water baptism is to follow repentance, as it is called the baptism as a result of repentance-ref Mk 1:4. Baptism prior to repentance has no meaning.

The horrible results of not repenting is eternal damnation. Mt 7:21-23-Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. They did not repent, or they returned to practicing sin after they did repent.

(LORD, LORD)

Lk 6:46-Jesus said: Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? NIV,

The rapture comes. Few are taken. Many that were positive they would be taken were not. These are their words.

Mt 25:11,12-Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Lk 13:25-When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

The scriptures are very clear that many, many, many think they are saved, but Jesus recognizes only a few.

(UP TIGHT) (FEAR)

Once a person calls on Jesus, they are also called to begin following Him in faith. They are called to obey His Word and do what He commands then to do. Few ever recognize this because of little personal bible study. Then the lukewarm bible teaching they hear from their church does little to cause them to fear God. In addition, whenever a person desires to draw closer to Jesus, there are almost always strong thoughts that come into their minds that oppose doing so accompanied with many reasons. In addition, as a person chooses to obey Christ, big uptight lumps appear in their stomach that brings fear. Few churches anymore tell it like it is.

Mt 3:3. For this is he that **was spoken of by the prophet Esaias** (or Isaiah), saying, The voice of one crying (or calling) in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight (or make straight paths for him).

Mt 3:3. John the Baptist is the one that was foretold by the prophet Isaiah that would come. He would precede the coming of the Messiah. He would say Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.

The father of John had prophesied regarding John in Lk 1:76-80. He had said: And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest (or most high): for thou shalt go on before the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission (or forgiveness) of their sins, Through (or because of) the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring (or rising sun) from on high (or from heaven) (shall visit) us to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the

Mt 3:4. And the same **John** had his raiment (or clothes) of **camel's hair**, and a leathern (or leather) girdle about his loins (or waist); and his meat (or food) was locusts and wild honey.

Mt 3:5. Then (people) went out to him (from) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Mt 3:6. And were **baptized** of him in (the) Jordan (river), **confessing their sins**. To Mk 1:2.

shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

And the child (John) grew, and (became) strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing (or public appearance) unto Israel.

Mt 3:4. Regarding **John**, Jesus said: Mt 11:11-Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

John was not clothed in beautiful garments as a man of a high position in this world would be.

Neither did he have the best foods to eat. And what did he eat? He ate locusts and wild honey.

Some today falsely teach that those that in Christ should prosper, always be healthy, and have the best things in this life. These things include fine cloths, big houses, and fancy cars. John the Baptist, Jesus, God's only begotten Son, and the apostles all demonstrate just the opposite. Humbleness, not pride or boasting, is to be the attitude of those that follow Christ. People that life of extravagance with many costly, worldly, possessions are not following the example Christ left for us.

What some did not understand is that Jesus would come twice. When He came the first time, he was crucified. His second coming will be at Armageddon. In both cases Elijah would come first. It is written: Mt 11:13-For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Mt 11:14 Jesus said: And if ye will receive it (or if you are willing to accept it) , this is Elias (or Elijah), who was to come.

Mt 3:5. Multitudes from Jerusalem and the surrounding areas went out to John. These areas could have covered distances as far as 50 miles. It would have been God that sent them.

Mt 3:6. They heard the words He spoke. His message was to **believe** on Him (Jesus) that was to come, and did come, **then repent, and then** be baptized by full immersion. This took place in the Jordan river. **That message has never changed.** However, many of the

churches of this last generation, before the tribulation, have watered down that message greatly. Few churches, in these latter days, have the people confessing their sins before they are baptized.

Many now leave out one thing, that is required of every person, that is to be saved. That word is **repentance**. As has been said, let it be said again: Lk 13:3, 5-I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**. I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**. Water baptism is a result of repentance-ref Acts 13:24, 19:4,

It is to be given to those that **first believe** on Jesus Christ-ref Acts 19:4, and **repent**.

Then the question arises: is baptism of men or is it from heaven. It is ordained from heaven-Lk 20:4.

Lk 7:29, 30-All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected the counsel (or word) of God, or the will of God, (or God's purpose) for themselves, not having been baptized by him NIV**

So what has Satan done? He has brought forth a counterfeit baptism which has no meaning at all. The false baptism of sprinkling, involves no believing on Christ which is mandatory, neither does it involve being buried in the water as is also required-being buried with Him in Baptism as it is written-Ro 6:4. It is often administered to infants which cannot believe on Christ. Churches that follow the deceiver use this counterfeit type of baptism. How does your church do water baptism?

Fr Jn 1:18. **Mt 3:7**. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to (where) his baptism (was), he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath **warned you** to flee from the wrath to come?

Mt 3:7. John the Baptist spoke harshly regarding the religious leaders of his day. He called the **religious leaders** of his time a generation of vipers or snakes.

There was a wrath that was coming. It was the Roman invasion of Israel in which Jerusalem

Mt 3:8. Bring forth therefore (or produce) fruits meet (or evidence) for **repentance** or fruit in keeping with repentance.

Mt 3:9. And **think not to say** within yourselves, We have Abraham to (or for) our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Mt 3:10. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth **not forth good fruit** is hewn (or cut) down, and cast into the fire. To Lk 3:7.

would be destroyed. That took place in 70 A.D. The last hold out of that war was Masada.

Even today, in this last generation, there are so many cults, and unbiblical ways to be saved, who can number them.

There is the great harlot located in Rome which has many followers.

There are so many churches that have no concept of what being born again even is, who can number them.

And then there are the churches that appear to follow Jesus, but are lukewarm. These also are not raptured.

Mt 3:8. Mt 7:16 says: Ye shall know them by their fruits. A person's attitude, and works or we may say fruits are evidence. These should be in keeping with repentance. Above all is the love of God which is reflected in obeying the Gospel. Also there is the love of the brethren, and the fruits of the Spirit. If a person does not have these, they are nothing. In other words—what you do will be the evidence of if you have repented or not.

A person can know the real Christians verses the false ones by their fruits or by what they do and how they act. Mt 7:19 Every tree (or every person) that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Mt 3:9. In other words, don't make excuses. The Jews thought that because they were descended from Abraham, they were automatically saved. John nullifies what they thought by telling them God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. That warning is not just for them, it is for all people.

No one is born saved. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Mt 3:10. Then John gives the Pharisees and Sadducees a warning, however that warning is for all. Every "tree: which means every person that does not bring forth good fruit (such as that which is in harmony with the Gospel) will be cut down at the root. Some may say that the axe, in this verse, destroys the once saved, always saved theology of those that expound that

Fr Lk 3:14. **Mt 3:11.** I indeed **baptize** you with water **unto** (or for) **repentance**: but he that cometh after me is mightier (or more powerful) than I, whose shoes (or sandals) I am not worthy to bear (or to carry): he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Mt 3:12. Whose fan (or winnowing fork) is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge (or clear) his (threshing) floor, and gather his wheat into the garner (or barn); but he will **burn up the chaff** with unquenchable fire. To Mk 1:7.

doctrine. A tree cannot be cut down if it is not first standing.

Yes, a person can repent, be baptized, and begin following Jesus. He is sealed with the earnest (or deposit) of the Spirit by faith. However, if that person loses their faith, (for we stand by faith) or returns back to the practice of willful and intentional sin, he becomes as the pig that was washed, but goes back to their wallowing in the mud. Then the axe which is laid at the very root (or heart) of the tree, shall cut it down.

Mt 3:11. John first tells us that water baptism is unto repentance. One goes into the water, confessing their sin, and comes out into the newness of life-ref Ro 6:4.

Then John begins to speak of the coming of the Messiah. However, he speaks of the coming of Jesus in great reverence.

This is something that the lukewarm, deceived churches of this last generation seldom do. Jesus said of John: Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist. This same John, spoke of the Messiah by saying: that He is mightier than I. He said that he was not worthy to bear his shoes. This is not the Jesus that is taught in most churches anymore. It is written: God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. The baptism of the Holy Ghost and with fire was to come later.

Mt 3:12. This verse can be easily understood by farmers, but not so easily by some others.

Again, John is speaking of the Messiah and what He will do.

His fan (or winnowing fork) is in his hand.

This is a method used by ancient cultures for separating the grain from the chaff.

Threshing loosens the grain or seeds from the husks and straw. It is the step before winnowing

The mixture is then thrown into the air so that the wind blows away the lighter chaff.

What is left is a pile of good grain.

Jesus will clear the threshing floor. The good wheat (or those that follow Jesus) will be

Fr Jn 1:28. **Mt 3:13.** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to (the) Jordan unto John, **to be baptized** of him.

Mt 3:14. But John forbad him (or tried to deter him), saying, **I have need to be baptized** of thee, and comest thou to me?

gathered to be with Jesus. The chaff, that is those that do not follow Christ, will be burnt up with fire.

This verse should remind all people that life is a test, and those that fail that test have an eternal future of torment. There are many, many, many more people that perish than those that follow Jesus without compromise. Do not underestimate the multitude of people that perish compared with the very few that will be gathered into the barn of Jesus.

Lk 13:24-**STRIVE to enter in** at the strait gate: (study your bible diligently and obey it-do not compromise) for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Jesus would have been about 30 years old as already stated.

The Gospel of Matthew is not all written in a chronological order. There are parts that skip several months, while other parts go backward in time.

Mt 3:13. There are two parts of the Jordan river. The one is north of the Sea of Galilee, and the other is south of the Sea of Galilee. The southern Jordan flows into the dead sea. it is a slow flowing, not very wide river. There is a very nice facility for people to get baptized near where the Sea of Galilee and south Jordan intersect. As the river flows downward to the dead sea, it becomes smaller. It is only a few feet wide about half way to the dead sea. As it empties into the dead sea, it is hard to find. The distance from the Sea of Galilee to the dead sea is about 87 miles.

Mt 3:14. Note, John said, "I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED OF THEE". If you have repented, and trusted in Jesus Christ, you also have a "need" to be baptized by full immersion. There is no such thing as sprinkling or infant baptism. The churches that practice these are blind leaders of the blind, and both them and their congregations shall perish. It is those that are illiterate regarding the Bible that fall for Satan's deceptions such as this. As already said: baptism is to be given after believing on

Mt 3:15. And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer (or let) it to be so now: for thus **it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness** (or it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness) Then he suffered (or allowed) him (or then John consented

Mt 3:16. And **Jesus**, when he **was baptized**, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, (at the moment) the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending** like a dove, and lighting upon him:

For the purpose of setting dates for the verses, it begins at Mt 3:16. Jesus would have been about 30 years old.

The verses of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are not all necessarily in a perfect chronological order.

Also Some events may appear in only one Gospel, while others may appear in 3 of the Gospels.

Mt 3:17. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is **my beloved Son**, (whom I love) in whom I am well pleased. To Mk 1:9.

Christ and repenting.

Mt 3:15. Note the words of Christ regarding water baptism. **THUS IT BECOMETH US TO FULFIL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Mt 3:16. When Jesus was baptized and went out of the water, the Spirit of God descended like a dove and lighted upon Him. This is in harmony with God's Word in Acts 2:38-**REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERYONE...AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

This was the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

As the heavens were opened unto Jesus and the Holy Spirit lighted upon Jesus, so it is with all that repent, and are baptized. The repentant sinner receives the Spirit of son-ship-ref Jn 1:12

Mt 3:17. God then said of His beloved Son: I am well pleased. Have you repented and been baptized by full immersion? Is God well pleased with you?

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