

## **BAPTISM, FORMULA IN.**

**David Lipscomb**

**Brother Lipscomb was asked is it necessary to say “I baptize you into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?” He answered:**

We know of no necessity for saying one word in baptism to render it valid. We have no intimation in the Bible that there was any formula repeated, nor do we believe there was. The believer made known his faith in Christ; was taken upon this confession or declaration of faith and baptized. The baptism that was done put them into the names of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The repeating the formula is a declaration of what is done, but it is not essential to the doing. It shows the tendency to mere ritualism, having faith in repeating formulas, etc., that persons run into these days. A man must eat and drink and work and trade in the name of Jesus. There is just as much necessity for saying, "I take this bread, I drink this water, I plow this furrow or plant this corn in the name of the Lord, I sell this horse in the name of the Lord," to make it acceptable as in the name of the Lord, as to say: "I baptize in the name of Christ, into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All that a Christian does, is or should be in the name of the Lord. If a Christian were to take a person who declared his faith in Christ and baptize him without uttering a word, it would be valid baptism. There is no harm when you do a thing in telling what you do, save as people come to attach a virtue to the words spoken, not to the submission of the individual to the Lord. The formula is only a telling what you are doing. The Lord knows without being told; the subject knows, if a proper one; the administrator knows what he is doing; and most intelligent believers know. It may be well to tell the audience for the benefit of ignorant hearers, but it certainly is not necessary to the validity of the ordinance. (QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY LIPSCOMB AND SEWELL, pg. 32)