

CHRIST'S BAPTISM AN EXAMPLE

(2 Nephi 13:1-32)

The main theme of Chapter 13 is the Doctrine of Salvation. Nephi uses a series of Quotes from the Father and Son to discuss the requirements for Salvation. Nephi sets up the quote by talking about obedience and the need to be baptized (v. 6-11), which is how the quote starts (v. 12-14), and then explains the final point of the quote (v. 19-20) in what it means to "endure to the end" (v. 22-30).

V6-11 Nephi uses the example set by Christ of being baptized (v.6, 8-10), even though he was sinless (v. 7), to demonstrate the necessity of humbling ourselves and keeping the commandments (v.11).

V12-21 are a series of quotes from the Father and Son combined with comments from Nephi. The quotes are presented as a dialogue with the Son and Father speaking and then Nephi interjecting, as follows:

A - (v. 12) Son says, "Follow thou me"

B - (v. 13) Nephi says, "How can we follow..."

A - (v. 11-12) Father and Son say "Repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost"

B - (v. 13) Nephi says, "I know that if you are baptized without hypocrisy you will receive the Holy Ghost"

A - (v. 14-15) Father and Son say, "You must endure to the end, you must not fall away after having entered in"

B - (v. 16) Nephi says "I know you must follow Christ's example to the end in order to be saved"

V16-17 "speak with the tongue of angels...speak with a new tongue, yea, even the tongue of angels", what Nephi is referring to is being filled with the Spirit of prophecy, which he spoke of in 11:5-7. If you have the Spirit in you then you can perceive spiritual things and converse with others who are spiritual on these matters as one who is experienced in them, as opposed to one who simply fails to comprehend due to lack of experience.

V18 "and after this should deny me...better for you that ye had not known me", this is referring to persons who slouch into simple apostasy, as described in Matthew 12:43-45, and not sons of perdition. This condition, that of being in denial of one's prior commitment to Christ, is held up in contrast to those who endure to the end (See Matthew 10:22).

V22-30 Nephi follows up the quotes with a lengthy discussion on what it means to "endure to the end". He says that one must do all the things Jesus Christ did (v. 22-24) in order to be in the right path (v. 25-26). Then, once in the path, one must continue on in it by relying upon Christ (v. 27-28), and having love for God and all man, feasting on the words of Christ. If you endure in this manner, you will have eternal life (v. 29-30).

V31-32 Nephi is emphatically stating the method he just detailed is the only means of being saved in the kingdom of God. He then defers and states the doctrine is not his own, but is that of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- 1. Why was Christ baptized?**
- 2. What else do we need to do after we are baptized?**
- 3. Why do we need to be baptized?**
- 4. What does it mean to take upon you the name of Christ? How can we do that?**