

We must here endeavour to discover the meaning and use of the word "baptize." This word is not merely translated from the Greek, but is itself the very Greek word. It has been adopted by our English translators as a technical word in theology, as scientists are continually adopting single or compound Greek and Latin words, as the technical terms of their sciences. I shall not trouble nor weary you with the names of many Greek lexicographers, but only refer to two or three—the two most ancient, and the most modern one. I will give their names, so that if my description of them is not correct it will not make any difference to the value of their evidence.

My first authority is Hesychius, the oldest native Greek lexicographer, who lived in the fourth century of the Christian Era. He gives only the root word, "bapto," and not the word in question, "baptizo," and the only meaning he gives the word "bapto" is "antleo," 'to draw or pump water.' Next in order comes Suidas, also a native Greek, who wrote in the tenth century. He gives only the derivative, "baptizo," and defines it by the word 'pluno,' 'to wash.' Passing over the intermediate Greek lexicographers, we come down to the present century, at the beginning of which we find Gases, a learned Greek, who with great labour and pains compiled a large and very valuable lexicon of the ancient Greek language. His work is deservedly held in high estimation by all, and is generally used by native Greeks. The following are his definitions of "bapto" and "baptizo." "Bapto,"=(1) Brecho, to wet, moisten, bedew; (2) "Pluno,"=to wash (viz., clothes); (3) "Gemizo,"=to fill; (4) "Buthizo,"=to dip; (5) "Antleo,"=to draw, to pump water. Then, "Baptizo,"=(1) "Brecho," to wet, moisten, bedew; (2) "Pluno,"=to wash; (3) "Louo,"=to wash, bathe; (4) "Antleo,"=to draw, to pump water." I am indebted for this information to an excellent work by the late Bishop of California, entitled, "The double witness of the Church." From this we learn that this native Greek lexicographer does not give "immerse" as even *one* meaning, either of "bapto" or "baptizo." To this I would like to add the testimony of the learned author of "Young's Analytical Concordance." He gives as the meaning of "baptizo," in his concordance, "to consecrate (by pouring out on, or putting into)"

I know it is very possible to find lexicons where "immerse" is given as *one* of the meanings of "Baptizo," but I doubt if any lexicon can be cited where "immerse" is given as the only meaning thereof. Lexicons are compiled in nearly every generation, and as words change or enlarge their meanings by, perhaps, careless usage, these meanings gain a position, and thus in time new meanings are added to old words. But this is just where a wide acquaintance with the use of language is necessary to enable one to rightly understand the meaning of words in various ages of the world.