

John 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

Analysis

John's clarification that Jesus Himself didn't baptize but His disciples did prevents misunderstanding about the necessity of apostolic baptism. This shows that the efficacy of sacraments depends on Christ's institution, not the administrator's status. The Reformed doctrine holds that valid baptism requires only a lawful administrator and proper elements, not apostolic hands.

Historical Context

This detail distinguishes Jesus' practice from John's personal ministry. The disciples' baptizing under Jesus' authority anticipated the church's ongoing practice after His ascension.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse protect against superstition about who performs baptisms?
2. What is the relationship between Christ's authority and our ministries performed in His name?

Interlinear Text

καίτοιγε Ἰησοῦς αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐβάπτισεν ἀλλ' οἱ μαθηταὶ
(Though **Jesus** **himself** **not** **baptized** **but** ^{G3588} **disciples**
G2544 G2424 G846 G3756 G907 G235 G3101

αὐτοῦ
himself
G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:48 (Baptism): And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.