

## Baptism Class (Pt. 2)

### *Understanding Baptism*

#### Intro

- Last week we talked about the reality to which baptism points (the Gospel), this week on the meaning and significance of baptism.
- Jesus commissioned his disciples to “go and make disciples, baptizing them...” (**Mt. 28:19**). This means that baptism is not simply a biblical doctrine. It is a biblical mandate.

“New Testament evangelists did not invite people to consider if they would like to obey the Lord in the matter of baptism. They baptized them! When Cornelius and his companions were filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter ordered them to be baptized (Acts 10:48). Paul received similar treatment from Ananias (Acts 22:16). Those arguing that they are not quite sure whether they want to be baptized are clearly saying they are not quite sure whether to acknowledge Jesus as their Lord.”

–Terry Virgo, *Restoration In The Church*, 98

#### What Does Baptism Signify?

- *my wedding ring*

#### Union with Christ

*“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”*  
**(Romans 6:1-5)**

- From union with Adam to union with the Second Adam...
- Being united to Christ means that what Christ is, he is for me. His death is my death. His life is my life.

*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”* (**Galatians 2:20**)

- Baptism is *the* symbolic representation of this.

*"...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)*

- Conversion & Baptism: *What does it mean to be a Christian?*

"When [Luke] refers to Christian baptism in Acts (and in his Gospel as well), he describes the experience of baptism as it is related to the process of becoming a Christian. In addition, Luke illustrates how in that process repentance, faith, confession of Jesus as Christ and Lord, baptism, and receiving the Spirit are interrelated and are all integral parts of the experience of becoming a Christian." –**Robert Stein**, "Baptism in Luke-Acts," in Schreiner & Wright, *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*, 36

- Notice the connection Paul makes between the work of the Spirit, our baptism, and our participation in the body of Christ:

*"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13)*

## Regeneration/Cleansing from sin

*"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:4-5)*

- It's not a coincidence that the common metaphor for our being made new in Christ is *washing*, and that the symbolic instrument of baptism is *water*.
- Baptism also signifies the fact that the believer has been washed clean from all sin. We have turned from sin, we have repented.

*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

## Who Should Get Baptized?

- *The Mississippi Sign Committee*

### Infant Baptism?

- There are no Biblical accounts of infant baptism.
- The NT everywhere assumes that there is a correspondence between those who have repented of their sin and trusted Christ, those who have been baptized, and those who are members of the church.
- The Roman Catholic view contradicts the Gospel.
- The problem with Covenantal Infant Baptism (*Paedobaptism*) is that the Bible teaches that all members of the New Covenant are *believers*.

*“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”  
(**Hebrews 8:10-12**)*

### Biblical Examples

#### Jesus Ordains the Practice

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (**Matt 28:19**)*

#### Believers at Pentecost

*“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ ... So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”  
(**Acts 2:37-38, 41**)*

#### New Believers in Samaria

*“But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” (**Acts 8:12**)*

### The Apostle Paul's Baptism

*"And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized." (Acts 9:18)*

### The Household of Cornelius

*"Then Peter answered, 'Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?' And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 10:46-48)*

### A Religious Leader and Other Corinthians

*"And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized." (Acts 18:8)*

"The New Testament authors wrote as though they clearly assumed that everyone who was baptized had also personally trusted in Christ and experienced salvation."

–Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 970

## Expectations for Baptism

### Anticipate God's goodness

- You should expect this to be more than a simple act of obedience.

"Since Jesus commanded his church to baptize (Matt. 28:19), we would expect that there would be a measure of blessing connected with baptism, because all obedience to God by Christians brings God's favor with it. This obedience is specifically a public act of confessing Jesus as Savior, an act which in itself brings joy and blessing to a believer. Moreover, it is a sign of the believer's death and resurrection with Christ (see Rom. 6:2-5; Col. 2:12), and it seems fitting that the Holy Spirit would work through such a sign to increase our faith, to increase our experiential realization of death to the power and love of sin in our lives, and to increase our experience of the power of new resurrection life in Christ that we have as believers. Since baptism is a physical symbol of the death and resurrection of Christ and our participation in them, it should also give additional assurance of union with Christ to all believers who are present. Finally, since water baptism is an outward symbol of inward spiritual baptism by the Holy Spirit, we may expect that the Holy Spirit will ordinarily work alongside the baptism, giving to believers an increasing realization of the benefits of the spiritual baptism to which it points."

–Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 953-954