

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray for conversions & baptisms

Intro – Today we define “Baptism.” Last week we observed the Lord’s Supper and I thought it fitting to discuss baptism this week. Those two are the ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ. As Baptist, we are pretty particular about the way we do baptism (it’s good to try to follow biblical pattern) But we must remember that baptism is more than just water baptism. Definition = “*Baptism is the act of immersion in something either literally or figuratively.*” The text before us broadens our thinking on baptism. Today touch on: *Baptism as a figure..., Water Baptism, Baptism in Spirit & Fire*

*Matthew 3 - Definitions 27 - What is Baptism?**BAPTISM AS A FIGURE OF SPEECH*

- Baptism is sometimes used as a figure of speech. A real event is described as being a “baptism”
 - A descriptor of an immersion into something - (not just sprinkled a little bit, but immersed)
- Luke 12:49-51
 - Jesus said a purpose in His coming was to bring “fire” (judgment...not yet kindled/ready)
 - But before...He first had a *baptism* to undergo Before He judged He was to be judged (cross)
 - He was distressed about being immersed in God’s wrath
- Mark 10:35-40
 - The brothers wanted a place of high honor...Jesus mentioned a “*cup & baptism*”
 - Jesus used both ordinances as a symbol of His suffering...and theirs
- 1 Cor. 10:1-2
 - Israel was baptized into Moses in the cloud & Red Sea (identified with Moses thru water)
 - The Egyptian army were fully immersed, but they were not baptized (into salvation)
- 1 Peter 3:20-21
 - 8 were *saved by water* (baptized) in the Ark/flood. (rest of Earth’s population immersed)
 - The water was only a symbol - “*not the removal of dirt from body...*”
- Baptism can be just figure of speech for immersion in suffering/judgment/wrath/death
 - Baptism has a symbolic connection to salvation AND condemnation (identification)

BAPTISM IN WATER

- Water baptism is typically what we think about when we talk about baptism
 - John... The Apostles...the church...all baptize(d) with water Matt. 3:11
 - Water baptism has been ordered by the Lord of the church (John 1:33-34; Matt. 28:19)
- Water baptism is required to be associated/connected with certain things
 - Prerequisites are required before water baptism is to be applied (order of operation)
 - Repentance Acts 2:38 Confession Matt. 3:6 Belief Acts 2:41; 8:12; 18:8; Mark 16:16
 - Symbolic washing from sins - Acts 22:16 (Naaman - 2 Kings 5)
- Water baptism is an outward identification
 - As Israel was baptized into Moses so too the Christian is baptized into Christ
 - The repentant believing sinner takes on Christ’s name (Christian/Church/Bride)
 - New Identity New Membership New Relationship

- Water baptism is an outward connection/identification to Christ's work of redemption
 - Galatians 3:27 Romans 6:3-4 to be immersed in Christ – all that He is & all that He did
 - The symbol of water baptism shows Jesus' death, burial & resurrection
 - Baptism says, "*I want His death to be my death, His burial to be my burial...*"
- Trinitarian salvation is shown in water baptism
 - Baptism is to be administered in the Triune Name of the Only True God Matt. 28:19
 - Identified with the True God and the salvation He provides
- We should strive to do water baptism right...but Jesus fixes where we get it wrong
 - Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness - Matt. 3:15
 - He got down in the water with us....and for us
 - Jesus was baptized for the thief who wasn't and for all of us who corrupt it
 - Jesus does it right as our Substitute because we do everything wrong
 - Jesus fixes up what we mess up

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

- ❖ Water baptism is NOT true/real/ultimate/complete baptism
 - Water is only a picture that points...a drama that declares...a symbol of the substance
 - Matthew 3:11 water baptism just points to true baptism...just an outward sign of an inward reality
- ❖ Jesus is THE BAPTIZER He baptizes in the Spirit or with the Spirit
 - A sinner is saved when Jesus Christ immerses them in His Holy Spirit
 - There is really only ONE baptism for the Christian - Eph 4:4-5 ironic we fight over it
we can become overly fixated on water baptism - ! Cor. 1:17
 - All Christians have been baptized by the same Spirit - 1 Cor. 12:13
 - If you don't have the Spirit, you don't have Christ - Rom. 8:9
- ❖ Baptism in the Spirit is "*the washing of regeneration*" - Titus 3:5
 - It is to be born of the Spirit, "*born of water and Spirit*" - John 3:5-6
 - Baptism of the Spirit is *New Life / New Birth / New Creation* (Gen. 1:2 John 6:63)
- ❖ Salvation is when the Savior baptizes you in His Spirit - Mark 1:8

BAPTISM IN FIRE

- Jesus is THE BAPTIZER and He will baptize everyone either in His Spirit or with fire
 - Matthew 3:10-12 *baptism by fire* = immersion in judgment (lake of fire - Rev. 20:14-15)
 - "*Baptism*" has a connection to both salvation & condemnation/wrath & grace
- We preach a message of baptism
 - Jesus was baptized for us He was immersed in the wrath of God so we could have the grace of God. He is the *Ark of Safety* and the way thru the Red Sea.
 - By water baptism we identify with the condemnation that fell upon Christ & the salvation that He bestows upon us by His Spirit. we receive washing & His righteousness
 - We also preach a *baptism* to come. For all not in the Ark of Safety there is an eternal lake of fire where all the impenitent will be immersed.
 - Jesus will baptize everyone either with His Spirit or with fire
 - The Judge who will baptize with fire was baptized with fire (Luke 12:49-50) The Lamb who was slain for men is the One who will judge men.

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED?