

Intro

Most of us have either a strong long-term memory or a strong short-term memory.

- How many of you would say you have strong long-term memory, or strong ... what was the question...
- Some of us can recite word for word songs from our childhood or our favorite movie from 20 years ago, but cannot seem to remember what we are supposed to pick up at the grocery store on the drive home from work.

God, by His grace, has given the **local church to help believers flourish** as they pursue God's Design

- In His wisdom, He established two practices, we call ordinances, because they are ordained (commanded) by Jesus to help us not only remember what He has done for us, but to fuel our faith in Him.
- Today, we will examine these two ordinances one of which you have already observed – **baptism**. Towards the end of service, we will observe the other is the Lord's Supper (Communion)

This is part of our Unstoppable Force Series:

- We are examining how the church is to be a people of hope for the world in darkness
- We have looked at Our Salvation – Our Statements
- Last week, we began looking at Our Structure: We examined the Two Offices – Pastor/Elder and Deacon.
- This Series is not only Foundational and to who we are as a church family, but it is Fundamental to who we will become moving forward.
- If you have missed any of the last three sermons in this series, I would encourage you to watch those on-line.

Psalm 111:1 – Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with *my* whole heart,

In the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation. ² The works of the Lord *are* great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them. ³ His work *is* honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever. ⁴ **He has made His wonderful works to be remembered**; The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. Praise the Lord the Congregation of the Upright

Remember the Wonderful Works He has done...The Lord is Gracious and full of Compassion

- Numbers 14:18a – 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression;
- Scripture Memory – This verse is repeated at least 9 times in Scripture.

God has given two practices to the Church to help us remember His wonderful works.

The Two Ordinances: Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Baptism – Romans 6:1-4

Baptism signifies a believer's union with Christ in his death and resurrection, their cleansing from sin, and their membership in the covenant community of the church

It is an external act which portrays an internal reality

- **Visible picture of God's Work in our lives – It portrays something that has already happened.**

Jesus was baptized – to fulfill all righteousness

- **Matthew 3:13-15** - Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, ***for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.***" Then he allowed Him.
- **Matthew 3:16** - ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; ... ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

That begs the question: Why was Jesus Baptized?

- In entering the water of baptism alongside repentant sinners, Jesus identifies with them. Ultimately, he will fulfil all righteousness by taking their place at the cross and standing for them as the Son who truly pleases the Father.
- John Piper helps us understand the baptized Christ by teaching that "Jesus saw his life as the fulfillment of all righteousness. The fact that participating in a baptism of repentance even though he had no sins to repent of is part of that shows that the righteousness he wanted to fulfill was the righteousness required not of himself, but of every sinful man." He goes on to say, "All the righteousness that would be required of men before the court of God, Jesus performed. So he joined fallen humanity, for whom he was providing righteousness by sharing their baptism." (Insera, *A Short Guide to Church*, p. 84)

Jesus commanded his followers to baptize others

- **Matthew 28:18-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ***baptizing them*** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Identification with Christ.

Romans 6:1-4 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as ***were baptized into Christ Jesus*** were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried ***with Him*** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Baptism pictures our Identity with Christ

- It is Symbolic – Just like a wedding ring signifies marriage, so does baptism
- Portrays our union with Christ –
 - The Greek word ***baptizo*** – ***lit means to immerse, to submerge***
 - Baptism by immersion is ***best picture*** of what Christ did – died, was buried, and rose again.
 - Some Churches Sprinkle – Not as good a picture
 - Some Baptize Infant – The child has no ability to believe...

- That's why we **believe baptism by immersion is the best picture** of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

- Pictures something that has already taken place

Baptism Points to New Life in Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 6:1-4 - ⁴Therefore we were buried **with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so ***we also should walk in newness of life.***

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **Made New Videos**

Identification with the Church

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- Paul is referring **more** to fact that we are immersed into the body of Christ at Salvation. Water Baptism is a picture of that!
- It has been said (Professor Stephen Wellum) that, "Baptism, then, is the defining mark of belonging, as well as a demarcation from the world" (Inserra, A Short Guide to the Church, p. 82)
- **Acts 2:41** - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were ***added to them.*** – ***To whom? To the Church***
- As a Church, Fellowship of Believers, according to Paul in ***Eph. 4:5*** "one Lord, one faith, one baptism"
- Because Baptism was modeled by Jesus, Commanded by Jesus, it is a requirement for church membership
- I properly identifies who is part of the local church!
- ***Baptism is where faith goes public.***
 - Baptism is like a jersey that shows you're now playing for Jesus's team. A church may publicly identify itself only with those who have publicly identified with Jesus in baptism. (Gospel Coalition [Link](#))
 - **The church throughout history has held with near-perfect unanimity that baptism is a necessary prerequisite to the Lord's Supper and church membership.**
 - In baptism a church affirms a believer's profession of faith in Christ. It affirms that someone who claims to be united to Christ in his death and resurrection, so far as they can discern, is. It sets a visible, public seal to an invisible, spiritual reality. (Jamison, Understanding Baptism, KL 151)

The Lord's Supper – 1 Cor. 11:23-32

The Lord's Supper symbolizes Christ's broken body and shed blood to bring about remembrance of his death, communion with God and fellow believers, and an anticipation of the future messianic banquet (Gospel Coalition [Link](#))

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 – For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread;

Paul says in I Corinthians that on the night that Jesus was betrayed, he celebrated Passover meal with his disciples, but he did more than that – He instituted a New Meal of Remembrance

- **Passover – God’s people were enslaved in Egypt – God chose a deliverer in Moses**
 - After Egypt endured nine plagues, God gave a final warning about a plague that would bring judgment through the death of each firstborn son, by the coming of the angel of death in the middle of the night.
 - But God gave specific instructions to his own people on how they could be spared this judgment. He provided salvation by instructing them to slaughter lambs and to put the blood from the slaughtered lamb on the doorframes of their residences. If the blood of the lamb was on their doorframe, the angel bringing judgment would pass over the homes.
 - They would be spared God’s judgment by the blood of the lamb. Their firstborn sons would be untouched because the death of the lamb served as a substitute.
- **Passover Meal**
 - God instructed them to have a meal, the supper of lamb, with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, as an annual memorial of that fateful day. This would be known as the Passover meal (Exod. 12) and would be eaten annually by the Jewish people for generations.
 - Practicing Jews still observe Passover today as they remember the night God brought deliverance to the people and passed over the homes covered by the blood of the lamb.
- **In the New Testament, Jesus introduced the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper prior to his betrayal and arrest.** (Inserra, A Short Guide to Church, p. 67-68)

1 Corinthians 11:24 - ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26 - ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Reminders Us (of the Gospel Story until Jesus Returns)

- Just as the Passover Meal points back to the deliverance, so too the Lord’s Supper points us back to the Cross.
- **The Bread representing the Broken body**
- **The Juice representing the blood shed ... for me**
- Jesus took the full wrath of God upon himself...that was meant for you and for me.
- It was the wrath we rightly deserved, but the Prophet Isaiah said...
- **Isaiah 53:4-6** - Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He*

was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Reorients Us

I Corinthians 11:27-28 - Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- We should take this time to examine ourselves –
 - Are we truly saved? Has there ever come a time when we have repented of sin, believed on Jesus and called upon his name for salvation
 - Is there any known sin in our lives?
- It reorients us to stay the course-endure suffering like Jesus did
 - The writer of Hebrews exhorts believer to... (**Hebrew 12:2-3**) - looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls
- He is the one who endured the cross, and a regular focus on that truth would allow them to not to lose hope.

It Renews

- **We Renew our commitment to Jesus**
 - Meditating on the Broken Body and the Shed Blood of Jesus should cause us to have a renewed love for Him
- **We Renew our commitment to the Mission – v. 26**
 - Verse 26 – “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.
 - The Lord’s Supper doesn’t just look back to the cross, as it also looks forward to the coming of God’s Kingdom.
 - It looks forward to the time when Jesus himself will feast with His people – When we celebrate the Lord’s supper, we’re not just remembering the past, we’re taking the future.

The Lord's Supper

At First Baptist We believe the Lord's Supper is for ...

- believers in Jesus—people who have repented of their sin and believed in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
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- If you have trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and have followed him in obedience by being baptized, we invite you to partake ... whether you are a member of First Baptist or whether you are a member of another church of like faith and practice, you are welcome to partake.
- Parents & Grandparents, If you have children who haven't been baptized, we encourage you to have them wait until they've made that decision.
 - Please use this as a teachable moment to explain that to them.

Men, If you will come and prepare the table – Take this time to examine yourself

Resources:

Church: What It is All About by Dean Inserra - [Link](#)

Understanding the Lord's Supper – [Link](#)

Understanding Baptism - [Link](#)