



Bible study for the week starting May 17, 2020

Holy Spirit ~ FAITH & BAPTISM

SHARE the circumstances of your baptism.

SHARE your understanding of baptism today and its significance in your faith life?

Baptism a study.

Baptism is one of the great dividers of Christianity. Some church bodies reject you as a true Christian if your baptism did not take place in the right manner or at the right time in your life. This study will challenge you to rethink the prominence and value of baptism in your life. Please pray for an open heart and mind for your blessing and encouragement.

BAPTISM ... The term itself, as was shared in this past weekend's message, comes from a series of Greek words (baptidzo) that are widely used with varying definitions. It can mean to wash or rinse, a rite of purification or a ceremonial washing by plunging, drenching, staining, dipping, or sprinkling which leads the Greek scholar and theologian Charles Hodge to declare, "The assertion that the command to baptize is a command to immerse is utterly unauthorized".

In the majority of Biblical instances, the verbs and nouns denoting baptism are used in a literal sense and signify the application of water to an object or a person for a certain purpose. The ceremonial washings of the Jews, the baptism of proselytes to the Jewish faith, common in the days of Christ, the baptism of John and of the disciples of Christ prior to the Day of Pentecost, and the Christian sacrament of baptism, are those literal baptisms with water for a specific religious purpose.

But Scripture speaks also of being "baptized into suffering", or "baptized into Christ", or "baptized with the Holy Spirit" which speak to being united with.

Without debate, even among those for which it is simply symbolic, Christian baptism, is a sacred ordinance of grace, appointed by the risen Christ Himself prior to His ascension for admitting individuals to discipleship with Him as stated in the Great Commission and practiced by the Apostles and the Christian Church ever since.

Martin Luther says about Jesus' command: This command declares that the external element to be employed, namely, water, and the form of the action to be performed by means of water, namely, any dipping, or pouring, or sprinkling, since the word "baptize" signifies any of these modes, "Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water comprehended in God's command".

Ephesians 5:26 makes it clear, "that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word," that not the external element alone, nor the physical action of applying the water, constitutes baptism; but "the word" must be added to the element and the action, in order that there may be a baptism.

And though it is grammatical nerdery at it's finest, what the Holy Spirit states does matter, so hang with me here: In Jesus' Great Commission (Mt. 28), the participle "baptizing" qualifies the imperative "make disciples," and expresses that, what the imperative states as the end, is to be attained by what the

participle names as a means to that end. Discipleship is to be obtained by baptizing-teaching. There is no rigid law regarding the order and sequence of these actions laid down in these words; they merely state that Christ desires His disciples to be both baptized and fully informed as to His teaching.

Baptizing-Teaching holds an eternal Promise

Salvation! Mark 16:16 --- "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." i.e. complete and final deliverance from all evil, the securing of "the outcome of your faith"--1 Peter 1:9 --- "obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." This is a comprehensive statement, as in 1 Peter 3:21 of the blessing of baptism.

Scripture also states, in detail, particular baptismal blessings:

- (a) Regeneration – please read Titus 3:5-8 and John 3:3-5
- (b) Remission of sins, or justification – please read Acts 2:38 from our sermon this weekend and to be further encouraged, read the following verses: Acts 22:12-16 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Hebrews 10:22
- (c) The establishment of a spiritual union with Christ, and a new relationship with God – please read Galatians 3:26-27 and Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12
- (d) The sanctifying gifts of the Holy Spirit – please read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (note vs 13) and Titus 3:5

As much as my "reason/human common sense" might push back at these miraculous claims, if I trust the God's very word I will know that all these blessings Scripture declares to be effects of baptism, not merely because it symbolizes it, or pledges a man to it, but also, and chiefly, because it effects it. To the long list of modern theologians we can add the 16th century reformer, Martin Luther's, words: "Baptism worketh forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe, as the words and promises of God declare"

Should Infants Be Baptized?

The command in the Great Commission is all-embracing; so is the statement concerning the necessity of baptism in John 3. After reading these statements, one feels inclined, not to ask, Should infants be baptized? but Why should they not be baptized? The weight of the scriptures and Church history rests on those who reject infant baptism. The desire to have their infants baptized surely manifested itself on the day when the first three thousand Jews were baptized at Jerusalem on Pentecost, assuming that they were all adults. The old covenant had provided for their children; was the new to be inferior to the old in this respect? The baptism of entire households is presumptive evidence that children and infants were baptized in apostolic times. And the practice of the early church as recorded in the church fathers was clearly practicing the baptism of infants.

The arguments against infant baptism imply the two major obstacles: 1. original sin and 2. the efficacy of baptism. Infant faith—for, faith is as necessary to the infant as to the adult—may baffle our attempts at explanation and definition; but God who extends His promises also to children. Jesus, who blessed little children and spoke of them as believers in Matthew 18:6, certainly does not consider the regeneration of a child or infant a greater task than that of an adult.

This study comes from my intense love of the topic gathered from multiple sources but utilizing the much of the language and outline from INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA-BAPTISM (LUTHERAN DOCTRINE), a wonderfully succinct reference.



FAITH & BAPTISM

Acts 1:1-8, 2:14-18, 2:36-39

May 17, 2020 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

What's the FORMULA for being saved?

Definition of Baptism (GOOD LUCK!!?!?)
plunging, drenching, staining, dipping, sprinkling

WATER Baptism

the application of water to an object or a person for a certain purpose

Figurative Baptism

Initiation into or union with --- Moses, Holy Spirit, Jesus

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ
have put on Christ. ---- Galatians 3:27

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And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ---- Matthew 28:18-20

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ---- Acts 2:38

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, – 1 Peter 3:21

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 3:5

Baptism is the transformational work of the HOLY SPIRIT