

## Baptism Class

### I. Purpose of the class

- a. When it comes to the doctrine of water Baptism, there seems to be a great deal of confusion.
  - i. This confusion can be seen in the conflicting concepts concerning the correct way to accomplish the sacrament of water baptism.
    - 1. Infant Baptism – necessary for salvation
    - 2. Infant Baptism – unnecessary for salvation
    - 3. Adult Baptism – necessary for salvation
    - 4. Adult baptism – unnecessary for salvation
    - 5. Baptism by proxy -
      - a. With all of these variations concerning the doctrine of water Baptism...
        - i. ...it becomes important for us to take some time to understand what we mean...
          - 1. ...when we talk about this spiritual sacrament of Baptism.
- b. Sub Points
  - i. With this as the goal - we're gonna break up this study into three parts
    - 1. We're gonna begin by first Defining Baptism
    - 2. Then we will Discover what the Bible says about Baptism
    - 3. And finally - we will Develop the method of Baptism that we use here at Calvary South Austin

## II. Baptism Defined

### a. Baptism

- i. When it comes to the Greek word rendered - Baptism - - we're talking about something that is completely Submerged.
  - 1. Submersion means to put something into water OR some other liquid - so that it's entirely under the surface
    - a. For example - when we submerge cucumbers into vinegar...
      - i. ...this is a baptism that produces pickles
- ii. The same Greek word also refers to - Immersion...
  - 1. ...which - again - refers to something that is plunged into liquid - until it's covered.
    - a. And in the context of water baptism - immersion refers to the way that the whole body of the individual....
      - i. ...is lowered into the baptism waters
    - b. With this definition in mind - let's open our Bibles and let's turn to 1 Corinthians chapter 1...
      - i. ...so that we can begin to discover - what the Bible says...
        - 1. ...about the sacrament of water baptism.

## III. Baptism Discovered

- a. As you make your way to the first chapter of 1st Corinthians - we should take a moment to ask...
  - i. ...does the Bible teach the doctrine **Baptismal Regeneration?**

1. In other words - does the Bible require people to be baptized - by being fully immersed into water...
  - a. ...as a necessary precondition for receiving the gift of salvation?
    - i. If so - - then - this requirement of water baptism - must be part of the gospel message.
      1. The reason why is because - the gospel is the message - by which sinners are saved.
  - ii. With this in mind - let's consider something Paul wrote - here in 1st Corinthians 1
    1. Look with me - beginning there at verse 14 - where Paul declared...
 

1 Cor 1:14        I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

1 Cor 1:15        lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

1 Cor 1:16        Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

1 Cor 1:17        For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.
    - b. Now - i wanna take a moment to consider the implications of Paul's statement:
 

“...Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel...”

      - i. Remember - the Gospel message is the good news - regarding how sinners are saved.

1. If the gospel message was an envelop - then...
  - a. ...the contents would include everything necessary for our salvation.
- ii. Now - think about it - if Water Baptism is necessary for salvation - then it only stands to reason that...
  1. ...Water Baptism would be part of the Gospel message - right?
- iii. However – Paul states – “Christ **did not send me to baptize**, but to preach the gospel”
4. Without debate - this statement makes no sense...
  - a. ...if Water Baptism is part of the Gospel message.
3. To sum it up simply - Paul was assuring his audience that - water Baptism is not necessary for Salvation.
  - a. And not only Paul - but the apostle Peter also assured us of the very same thing.
    - i. In order to make my case - let's turn to 1st Peter chapter 3...
      1. ...and as you make your way to the 3rd chapter - of 1st Peter...
        - a. ...I want to take a moment to point out that...
          - i. ...the verses found here in 1st Peter chapter 3 - can be a bit confusing

b. The reason why is because - a surface reading of these verses would seem to suggest that...

i. ...water baptism is necessary for salvation.

1. And yet - when we take a closer look at the point Peter was making...

a. ...we begin to see that - this is not the case at all.

3. With this as our focus - look with me there at 1 Peter 3...

a. ...and let's begin reading there at verse 18 - where Peter declared...

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

1 Peter 3:19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

1 Peter 3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism

i. Now - there are many who try to use this verse - as a proof text...

1. ...for teaching the doctrine of Baptismal regeneration.

a. And yet - as we take a closer look at Peter's point...

i. ...we begin to see that - this is not the case at all.

- First of all - I should remind you that - Noah and his family weren't saved **IN** the water...
- ...no - instead - Peter tells us that they were saved **THROUGH** the water.
- Remember - the flood waters was the judgment that God was pouring out - on this wicked world.
- That being the case - those who got wet - - were the one's who ended up dying.
- Meanwhile - Noah and his family were saved - after being sealed up inside the Ark - where they were safe and dry.
- Simply put - Noah and his family weren't saved **by the water** - no - instead - they were saved **from** the judgment waters.
- Antitype
- With this in mind - we should consider what Peter meant - when he referred to baptism - as an antitype which now saves us.
- Trust me when I tell you that - Peter was NOT pointing to water baptism - as a means of salvation.
- No - - instead - - he was letting us know that - - the sacrament of water baptism is an antitype of the flood.
- Or in other words - water baptism was patterned after the flood of Noah.
- And listen - if water baptism is a symbolic simulation - which follows the pattern of the flood ...
- ...then - we should take a moment to consider the sacrament of baptism - in light of Noah's flood.
- Parallel

- Remember - the water that flooded the earth during the days of Noah - was God's judgment - on those who refused to repent - and enter the ark.
- What this means is that - the water - in water baptism - is symbolic of God's judgment - on the wicked world during the days of Noah.
- And as we consider the way that Noah - and his family were protected from the judgement waters - in the Ark...
- ...we should take a moment to ask - what does Noah's ark represent?
- With this question in mind - I should remind you that - the Lord was the One - Who sealed them into the Ark.
- And as we consider the way that the Holy Spirit seals us into the mystical body of Christ - - the ark is a clearly a type of Christ.
- IN
- In order to prove my point - I'll remind you of something that Paul wrote - in Colossians chapter 3 - where he declared...
 

Col 3:3 ...you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
- Christian - listen - when you placed your faith - in the Lord Jesus Christ - you're life was hidden IN Christ.
- And as we consider the way that the life of the believer - has been hidden in Christ...
- ...it seems to me that - Noah's ark was an antitype - of the mystical body of Christ Jesus.
- What this also means is that - the ark of Noah - was a Shadow - which was designed to reveal...

- ...the way in which our Savior - would save us from the judgment of God.
- With that being the case - I can assure you that - - Peter wasn't trying to tell us that water baptism is necessary for salvation.
- No - - instead - he was letting us know that - water baptism is a symbolic sacrament...
- ...which was initially revealed - - during the days of Noah's flood.
- And much like Noah - who was saved - by the faith that he placed - in the One Who told Him to build the Ark...
- ...we too are saved by faith in the One - Who was sent to save us - from the righteous wrath of God.
- And those who trust in Him are now hidden in God - with Christ - and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.
- In order to further grasp the way that the sacrament of water baptism - is a symbol of salvation...
- Let's consider something that Paul wrote to the church in Rome - - and so - let's turn in our Bibles to Romans chapter 6.
- And as you make your way to the 6th chapter of Romans - I want to take a moment to remind you that...
- ...the water is not only a symbol of God's judgment - - but - it's also a picture of death - and the grave.
- Therefore - water baptism is designed to symbolize the judgment of death - as well as the grave - from which we arise.
- DBR
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Romans chapter 6 - look with me beginning there at verse 3 - where Paul writes...



Rom 6:3 ...as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 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.

- b. Now - as we read these verses - I want to assure you that - when you get baptized this Saturday...
  - i. ...you're not literally going to die and be buried.
  - 2. In other words - when Paul tells us that we're buried with Him through baptism into death,...
    - a. ...he wasn't telling us to be literally immersed in the Death of Jesus.
      - i. Therefore, he must be speaking symbolically.
  - iii. And so - let's take a moment to consider the symbolism of baptism - beginning with the death of Jesus
    - 1. There in verse 4 - Paul tells us that we were buried with Him through baptism into death,
      - a. And from this - we see that the act of submersion is symbolic of the death and burial of Jesus
        - ii. And then - in the 2nd half of vs 4 - Paul declared...

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
      - b. From this - we see that the person who rises up from the baptismal waters...
        - i. ...is symbolically rising from the grave with Christ - to a brand new life.

3. And so we see that - water baptism is a symbolic demonstration...

a. ...of the salvation that we receive - by faith in Jesus Christ.

c. Recap

i. So – Water Baptism is...

1. The sacrament by which a person is fully submerged into water

2. It's also a spiritual sacrament that is NOT necessary for salvation

3. And yet - this sacrament symbolizes our union with the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

b. This brings us to the next section of this study

i. And so - let's turn in our Bibles - to Acts chapter 2

IV. Baptism Developed

a. And as you turn to Acts 2 - we should ask the question - Who is Water Baptism for?

i. And the answer - according to Peter - is that Baptism is for those who repentant - and trust in Jesus.

1. As a matter of fact - here in Acts 2 - we find Peter preaching the gospel to a crowd of People.

a. And beginning there at verse 37 - Luke tells us that...

**Act 2:37** ...when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

**Act 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.

b. Now - when Peter says Repent and be Baptized...

i. ...he was telling us that water baptism is for those who had realized their need for forgiveness...

1. ...and have received the grace of God - by faith in Jesus Christ.

ii. And so - water baptism is for Christians who have been saved from the punishment we deserve...

1. ...through the repentance that leads us to trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

b. In order to further make my case - let's flip forward to Acts chapter 10...

i. ...where we find the apostle Peter - preaching the gospel message - at the home of a Roman soldier named Cornelius.

1. And as he preached the remission of sins - by faith in Jesus Christ - they believed in Jesus - and were saved.

a. Let's consider Luke's account found here in Acts 10 look with me beginning there at verse 44 - where we read...

**Act 10:44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

**Act 10:45** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

**Act 10:46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

Act 10:47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Here in these verse - we learn that the new believers at the house of Cornelius...

...received the Holy Spirit - before they were baptized in water.

And from this - we can see that water baptism is a sacred sacrament...

...which is not necessary for salvation.

V. At the same time - I do believe that those who truly trust in Jesus - should also be baptized in water - according to His command.

a. This leads us to the next question - which is this - - How do we baptize people?

i. And in order to answer this question - let's Turn to Matthew 28.

1. As you turn to Matthew chapter 28 - I want to take a moment to remind you that...

a. ...the word - Baptism - speaks of immersion - or submersion.

i. And it's for this reason - that I fully submerge those who are being baptized - into water

2. I also follow the instructions that Jesus presented - here in Matthew 28 - look with me there at verse 19...

Matthew 28:19 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,

a. Now - as we consider this verse - we see that a proper water baptism is performed...

i. ...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

b. And in order to understand what this means - consider the command...

i. "Stop in the name of the Law"

1. Now - when an officer says "Stop in the name of the Law"...

a. ...they aren't really referring to a proper name - like John or Sally...

i. But instead - they're referring to the authority - character and power - of the law.

2. In similar fashion - when we baptize people here at Calvary South Austin...

a. ...we do so - according to the authority - character and power...

i. ...of the Father -Son and Holy Spirit

## V. Conclusion

a. Describe the mechanics

i. So then - to wrap it all up - Water Baptism is...

1. The act of being fully submerged into water

2. It is a spiritual sacrament that is NOT necessary for salvation
3. it symbolizes our union with the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. And it's a symbolic sacrament - that is performed on believers - in the name of the Father - Son - and Holy Spirit.

iv. **Any questions?**

1. **Dress modestly - - shirts -**