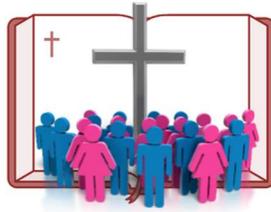


Being Baptist

"You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."
Psalm 61:5



Lesson 5

“DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE AND AT THE TABLE” – PART ONE Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion Part One: Baptism

LESSON AIM: To describe the New Testament teaching about believer’s baptism by immersion and its significance to New Testament Christians.

- **WELCOME & PRAYER / LESSON INTRODUCTION / THEME VERSE / LESSON AIM**
- **QUICK REVIEW: LESSONS 1-4**
- **PART 1: THE BAPTIST DOCTRINAL HALLMARKS (Continued)**
 - The Baptist Distinctives
 - B – Biblical Authority & The Lordship of Christ
 - A – Autonomy of the Local Church
 - P – Priesthood of Believers
 - T – Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
 - I – Individual Soul Liberty
 - S – Saved Church Membership
 - T – Two Offices: Pastors & Deacons
 - S – Separation of Church & State
- **FOURTH DISTINCTIVE: “T” = TWO ORDINANCES: BAPTISM & COMMUNION**
 - Preliminary Remarks
 - Understanding “Ordinance” vs. “Sacrament”
 1. Sacrament: *“Formal religious act or rite conferring a specific grace on those who receive it”*
 2. Ordinance: *“Authoritative rule, law, decree, or command” (an act that Jesus commands)*
 - Three-Fold Test of a New Testament Ordinance
 1. Initiated by Jesus During His Earthly Ministry (The Gospels)
 2. Practiced by the Early Church (Book of Acts)

3. Taught as a Divine Command for the Church (New Testament Epistles)

➤ Meaning of New Testament Baptism (“Believers Baptism”)

- Importance of Christian Baptism
- Key Reference: Matthew 28:18-20
- Description: The Bible teaches “believer’s baptism”—the immersion in water of people capable of making a conscious decision to trust Christ. Though baptism is not *essential* for salvation, it is *commanded* in Scripture as a step of godly obedience and necessary for membership in a local New Testament church.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: “In a very real sense, baptism is what makes Baptists, ‘Baptists.’ At least it is the characteristic first noticed and by which we got our name. We baptize in a different way and at a different time than many other Christian groups do. We baptize people who are old enough to understand what following Jesus Christ means and [only when] they make such a commitment. When Baptists baptize... they immerse the person in water” (Jeffery D. Jones, *We Are Baptists*, 2001).

➤ Survey of New Testament Baptism (Mt. 3:1-6; Lk. 16:16; Acts 1:21-22; Mt. 3:13; Jn. 3:22, 4:1-4; Mt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-41, etc.)

➤ Purposes of Baptism

- For Believers Only (Acts 8:35-39; 10:47)
- Public Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41)
- Depiction of the Gospel Message (Rom. 6:3-5; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- Symbolizes New Life in Christ (1 Cor. 12:13 [Spirit baptism]; Acts 19:5 [water baptism])

➤ Proper Mode of Baptism

- Definition of New Testament Greek Term *Baptizo* (βαπτίζω)
- Biblical Meaning of the Act (Acts 6:3-4)
- Context of Many New Testament Scriptures (Mt. 3:16; Jn. 3:23; Acts 8:38)

➤ Results of Baptism

- Obedience to God’s Word (Cf. Mt. 28:19 & Jn. 14:15)
- Identification with God’s People (Acts 2:41-42)

➤ Authority to Baptize: The Local Church (Mt. 16:18→Mt. 28:19-20→Eph. 1:22→1 Tim. 3:15)

QUOTABLE QUOTE: “The New Testament never contemplates the abnormal situation of an unbaptized believer. It assumes those who converted submit to baptism right away... Though baptism is not a requirement for salvation, it should be the invariable public sign of it” (William McDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, 1995).

• **SUMMATION / PREVIEW OF LESSON 6 / QUESTION & ANSWER TIME / BENEDICTION**