

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:
Return to Elementary School, Part 7
Baptisms
September 23, 2018

I Jesus is Lord

A) **Hebrews 6:1-3 (NIV)**

- 1) Repentance from acts that lead to death
- 2) Faith in God

B) Baptisms

II Baptisms

- A) A woman took her 4-year-old daughter to a baptismal service at her church. Later that night, her daughter took all of her dolls into the bathtub with her and held her own "baptism."

As she dunked each doll under the water, she repeated, "Now I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and hold your nose."

B) **SLIDE** Plural

- 1) The first thing I noticed was that baptisms was plural
- 2) Growing up, I only heard about one - water baptism
- 3) Of that one baptism, I was taught that there were different forms
 - a) Sprinkling
 - b) Pouring
 - c) Immersion
- 4) However, I do not believe this was Paul's point
- 5) Paul is clearly telling us that there is more than one baptism, and this instruction is foundational to our faith

C) **SLIDE** John's Baptism

- 1) **Mark 1:4 (NIV)** ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 2) Means to submerge, submerge, or dip repeatedly

- 3) The baptism we are most familiar with
- 4) Baptism of repentance is a baptism that comes after we repent and after we have accepted Christ through faith
- 5) **SLIDE** It is a public declaration of our decision to follow Christ
 - a) **Acts 8:12 (NIV)** ¹²But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
 - b) Notice, they believed and then were baptized
 - c) They did not wait
 - d) They wanted to publicly declare their faith and belief in Christ Jesus
- 6) In 1990, center fielder Brett Butler left the San Francisco Giants as a free agent, joining the cross-state rivals, the Los Angeles Dodgers. When Butler returned to San Francisco for the first time as a Los Angeles Dodger, Giants fans greeted him with a mix of boos and cheers.

The cheers turned to boos, however, when Butler hugged Los Angeles manager Tommy Lasorda. "It turned a page in my career," said Butler. "I'm an L.A. Dodger now; I'm not a Giant. That just kind of solidified it. I wanted them to know, I'm a Dodger."

When people become Christians, in one way or another they need to identify with Jesus in the sight of all their family, friends, and acquaintances. *1001 Quotes, Illustrations, and Humorous Stories: For Preachers, Teachers, and Writers.*

- D) **SLIDE** Baptism is to salvation as a ring is to marriage
 - a) I would still be married even if I did not wear my ring
 - b) However, what would that say about my attitude toward my marriage
 - c) I wear this ring because I want everyone to know I am married AND that I am married to Carol
 - d) Baptism is the same

- 2) Baptism lets everyone know that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives
 - a) **Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)** ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
 - b) Baptism is a participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
 - c) Baptism is a commitment to live a new life in Christ Jesus
- 3) **SLIDE** We have strayed from this fundamental truth because too often we view this baptism as optional
- 4) I have used the thief on the cross as proof that one can have salvation apart from baptism
- 5) However, we are not baptized because it is required
- 6) We are baptized because Christ commanded us to be
- 7) **Matthew 28:19 (NIV)** [Jesus commanded,] ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
- 8) We are never forced to obey Jesus - NEVER
- 9) We are to obey because we love Him, we believe Him, and because we are not ashamed to be identified as Christians
- 10) Repentance, faith in God, and baptism go together
- 11) Repent and be baptized. Now.

III **SLIDE** Baptism for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- A) **Matthew 3:11 (NIV)** [John said,] ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
 - 1) This occurs at the moment of salvation
 - 2) The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin
 - 3) The Holy Spirit guides and directs us

- 4) The Holy Spirit helps us to clean up our thoughts and actions
- 5) The Holy Spirit leads us into the truth
- 6) The Holy Spirit gives us a hunger and an understanding for God's word
- 7) The Holy Spirit becomes our helper.
- 8) **SLIDE Acts 10:44 - 48 (NIV)** ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues^f and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." ⁴⁸So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

B) **SLIDE** Baptism for the empowering of the Holy Spirit

- 1) **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- 2) **Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)** ¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
- 3) They had already received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them.
- 4) Yet, they were told to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized with the Holy Spirit
- 5) As they were immersed in water by John, they will be immersed in the Holy Spirit by Jesus.

C) **SLIDE** In addition....

1) One Baptism

- a) **Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)** ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--
⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- b) This does not contradict Paul's statement about baptisms
- c) Here, the emphasis is on ONE body, spirit, Lord, faith, baptism
- d) Because Jesus Christ is the source of our salvation and all that follows, we all participate in one baptism: baptism into the Body of Jesus Christ
- e) We truly are to be one body, with one purpose and with one means
- f) We are not baptized into a faith, a movement, a person, a denomination
- g) We are all baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

2) **SLIDE** Which brings us to the following

- a) **Matthew 28:19 (NIV)** [Jesus commanded,] ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
- b) **Acts 2:36-38 (NIV)** ³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ 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.
- c) **SLIDE** Legalism has led us astray from this foundational truth
- d) Do we immerse people, sprinkle them, douse them, rebaptize?
- e) Do we baptize in the name of Jesus or in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?
- f) Baptism should never become a formula

- g) We baptize in the name of Jesus because all authority is His
 - h) Therefore, we baptize in the authority of His name, otherwise we are simply getting people wet.
 - i) When we baptize in the name of Jesus, we baptize in the name of the Father, in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit Who fills us
 - j) We cannot separate Jesus from the Father, nor can we ignore the Holy Spirit
- 3) Repent, have faith in God, and be baptized