

Lesson 12 – Church Ordinances – Baptism (Part 3 – The Importance of Baptism)

- I. Baptism is important because Christ commanded it and set the example. Every saved person should desire to obey Christ. Read:
- A. Matthew 3:13-17 *¹³Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
- B. Matthew 28:19 ***¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***
- II. Baptism is important because it is a public testimony of salvation. In baptism the believer is showing to the world that he is child of God.
- III. Baptism is important because it presents a picture of the Gospel. The 6th chapter of Romans shows the relationship of baptism to the gospel.

Romans Chapter 6 [Complete Renewal]

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A. Notice the expressions in Romans Chapter 6 describe the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. **This is the gospel story.**

Read definition of the gospel story in:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ¹Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

1. "His death.": Romans 6:4
2. "Christ was raised up from the dead.": Romans 6:4
3. "His resurrection.": Romans 6:5
4. "Christ... raised from the dead.": Romans 6:9
5. "He died.": Romans 6:10

B. This chapter teaches that baptism is to be a picture of this gospel story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Notice the expressions that describe baptism:

1. "Baptized unto his death": Romans 6:3
2. "Buried with him by baptism": Romans 6:4
3. Planted "in the likeness of his death": Romans 6:5
4. Also, "in the likeness of his resurrection.": Romans 6:4

IV. Baptism is important because it presents a picture of our salvation.

A. Again, in the 6th chapter of Romans we find that the emphasis is upon the importance of baptism. It shows outwardly what happens inwardly.

1. "Dead to sin.": Romans 6:2
2. "Walk in the newness of life.": Romans 6:4
3. "Our old man is crucified with him.": Romans 6:6
4. "Dead with Christ.": Romans 6:8
5. "Live with him.": Romans 6:8
6. "Dead unto sin.": Romans 6:11
7. "Alive unto God.": Romans 6:11

B. Baptism pictures what happens when a person is saved.

- V. The danger of unscriptural baptism.
- A. It is disobedient to the command of Jesus Christ.
 - B. It presents a false picture of salvation.
 - C. It presents a false picture of the gospel.
 - D. It is a false testimony.

Questions:

1. In what way is baptism a public testimony of salvation?
2. Explain how baptism is a picture of the gospel?
3. Explain how baptism is a picture of salvation?
4. What are the dangers of unscriptural baptism?

Discussions: What are the dangers of “Infant Baptism”?

Assignment work: Acts 18:8 *And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.*

Scripture reading: Exodus 12 (The Passover)