

The Whole of our Baptism

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There has never been a time in which I have whiteness or been a part of Christian baptism and not received an immense blessing by the proclamation of Faith in Jesus. I have been stressed, angry, even depressed when baptisms begin but

Main point: **The whole of our baptism displays the completeness of our salvation.**

TS:Prayer

Water Baptism is not the last step in securing salvation.

1. Peter's words at Pentecost creates a possible, if not probable, confusion for believers to diverge in their beliefs on baptism.
 - a. Acts 2:38 – After the first sermon post-resurrection the crowd inquires as to what to do. Peter says, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”
 - i. On the surface, it seems pretty clear Baptism is not only important but necessary for salvation.
 - ii. Peter’s context reveals a tremendous risk for these people if they confess and identify with Christ; they risk immense persecution and ridicule. Peter, therefore, challenges his listeners to do the very thing that will cause great upheaval to their lives. "be baptized" or identify with Christ.
 - b. Mark 16:16 – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” Repentance and Baptism are combined, but only disbelief is referenced in terms of condemnation.
2. In contrast, we look at the full countenance of Scripture, and the basis of salvation upon faith is almost impossible to overturn.
 - a. Luke 23:39-43 Thief on the cross. – “Today you will be in paradise”
 - b. 1 Cor. 1:14-17 – “For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.”**
 - i. If baptism were required for salvation, then Paul would be preaching a lackluster message because he left out the final part.
 - ii. But he didn’t leave anything out and preach the whole gospel without omission.
3. EX. Time change and trying to convey to our boys we did not trick them into going to bed early. No matter how we described it, it sounds like we were tricking them.

TS: Baptism is not an imperative for salvation, but it is important enough to be mentioned in Eph. 4 by Paul, by Peter at Pentecost, and Christ himself. So crucial to the Christian life, baptism is, that Christ even elevates it to a new testament commandment and we ought to wonder why He would do that.

Water Baptism is a first act of obedience for disciples.

1. Why would Jesus command us to practice baptism if it is not a requirement of salvation? The same question can be said of communion, which we took last week and were told of that sacraments importance in conveying the gospel message.
 - a. **Baptism expresses the Gospel's result.**
 - b. Before we look at Jesus' command for baptism let's examine his own baptism to understand why he command us to follow his example.
2. Let's look at Jesus' baptism as the begging for our example to follow.
 - a. JTB: John the Baptist was a prophet preparing the land and people for the Messiah. The way he was preparing the Jewish nation was calling people out of the pharisaical culture to repent from that culture and identify again with Godly righteousness.
 - i. The Irony in this scenario is found with the Pharisees who already believed themselves to be righteous because they were Jewish, but John taught correctly saying,
 1. **Matthew 3:7-9 – “7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.”**
 2. Jesus does not need repentance or washing but is choosing to "identify" with true righteousness of commandment keeping. Then Jesus is immediately led into the wilderness, to be proved righteous.
 - ii. Don't assume because you have been baptized you have been saved. Just like John was telling the Pharisees, don't assume your promised heaven because your Jewish. Don't believe the act of baptism has any salvific merit. Instead, do you choose a life pursuit of righteous through a faith-filled life? Then begin with a declaration of that choice.
 - b. Jesus sets the example for what we call Prostilyte baptism or baptism of moving a person out of one citizenship and INTO another.
 - i. Out of being a Gentile into being a Jew.
 - ii. Out of being in opposition to God into a servant of God.
 - iii. Out of worldliness and into Godliness.
 - iv. Out of self-vindication and into sanctification.
 - v. Out of Death and into Life.

- c. Representative not quantitative
 - i. It represents what has quantitatively taken place in the heart and mind of an individual. – (Justification and the beginning of sanctification through faith in Christ)
 - ii. The only quantitative weight the act of water baptism has in our life is the fact that it is intended to a **first act of obedience** to Christ in our new life has a Child of God.
- 3. Jesus commands Baptism in the great commission
 - a. **Matthew 28:18-20 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the father, son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching....”**
 - i. Go – command
 - ii. Make Disciples – command
 - iii. Baptize – Command!!! (then teach)
 - 1. The responsibility of the Church from Christ is to lead people to be baptized.
 - 2. Entrench a new believer in the life of God and his church by ceremoniously baptizing them as a powerful symbol of their new citizenship and adoption into the Family of God.
 - iv. The apostle Paul follows this imperative and shows us that it should be the normal expectation for all believers.
 - 1. Writing to the Roman Christians, whom he has never met, in chapter 6 assumes they have already been baptized when he says, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.”
- 4. EX. Picture of the boys playing with the leaf blowers.
 - a. That is Peyson, and the other boy is Luca, but those are not my actual boys. This is a mere image of them but in no way would I call.
 - b. In putting leaf blowing in my boy’s hands, it is only a matter of time before they turn those blowers on each other. It is going to happen.
 - c. In the same way, when the Holy Spirit places himself into our heart and it is only a matter of time before we are baptized.
- 5. The refusal to be baptized is a Sin. Christ commanded, and we need to obey. Baptism is not for his benefit. He doesn't need us to be baptized for he knows that Baptism is for the benefit of the believer, the church, and the community.

TS: If baptism doesn't save but it is essential to Christian life what does it express exactly. We've already covered some of the aspects but let put them all together.

Water Baptism is the display of salvation, not the means of attaining it.

What about our salvation does it express?

1. Displays our allegiance to Christ.

a. Matthew 28:19: “In the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

- b. We are no longer orphans, we are a part of the family of God, and we testify to receiving his salvation through his son.
- 2. Displays our repentance of sin and restoration to righteousness.**
 - a. Acts 2:38 “Repent and be Baptized”**
 - b. We have turned from our ways of sin and are now followers of Jesus
- 3. Displays our baptism (seal) of the Holy Spirit.**
 - a. Matthew 3:11 – “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”**
 - b. Acts 1:5 – “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**
 - c. The Holy Spirit's residence in each and every believer is an amazement and wonder that we might be taking for granted. The helper, healer, and comforter resides in us. Guiding, equipping and empowering us to continue the ministry of Jesus from the moment we believe until the Lord calls us home. The people of God in the OT never had such access to God that we have now. They only had the promise of God's continue dwelling with his people.
 - i. EX. Joshua was uncomfortable with some of the Elders prophesying in public. Moses' responses **“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”**
 - ii. Joel 2:28-29 – Fulfilled at Pentecost
 - d. Baptism symbolizes the indwelling of the Spirit and fulfillment of God's promise to his people.
- 4. Displays our Co-death with Christ.**
 - a. Romans 6:4a, 6 – “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death ... We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing...”**
 - b. Our world and sinful identify has been killed and buried with Christ and have been given a new one in its place.
 - c. We are no longer slaves to sin and identified by our transgressions, shortcomings, faults, disabilities, inabilities, but are counted righteous and identified by God what says about us alone.
- 5. Displays God's promise to raise us like Christ.**
 - a. Romans 6:4b – “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”**
 - b. As we rise out of the water and are a new creation, one day soon we will be entirely separated from sin and made new.

TS:

Baptism signifies our participation into Christ

Conclusion:

1. Who should be baptized?

- a. Anyone who can articulate their faith in Jesus.

2. Reasons that keep you from being baptized

- a. External Fear
 - i. What others will think
 - ii. I should have been already
 - iii. Don't want to get Hair wet.
- b. Internal fear
 - i. Unsure of Salvation
 - ii. Unworthy
 - iii. Not yet a believer.

3. Join the class

- a. Learn about who has been baptized before and the family you're apart of.