

Sunday, January 25, 2009—The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine—Baptism

Introduction

- Last week we saw how that the so-called Great Commission was not our commission.
- This week we are going to continue our investigation into the cost of being Scriptural but not dispensational when it comes to the issue of water baptism.
- Pastor J.C. O'Hair called this topic religious TNT—water baptism is one of the sacred cows within that believers will do battle over.
- Even with in the denominational circles that practice water baptism there little to know agree about its significant or mode in which it should be conducted.
- Many teach that it is not necessary for salvation but they will sure question your salvation if you have not been baptized.
- Follow the Lord in believers baptism. Outward sign of an inward commitment.
- As we saw last week in our study of our commission, baptism was required for Israel prior to, during, and after the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
- There is not one verse of Scripture that teaches baptism as an outward sign of an inward commitment.
- So this morning as we consider this topic I want to look at the following four points:
 - The Biblical History of Water Baptism
 - John's Baptism
 - The Baptism of Jesus
 - Paul's teaching on Baptism

Biblical History of Water Baptism

- Most people when they hear the term baptism or read it automatically think of water, however, it is important to know that the Scriptures speak of at least 12 differently kinds of baptism.
- While this morning we are focusing our attention on water baptism it is only one of many we could discuss if we had more time.
- John 1:25—The leaders of Israel do not question John's practice of water baptism but by what authority he was baptizing.

- At this point in the word of God Israel has had a long history of baptizing or washing things and people in water.
- Hebrews 9:10
- Leviticus 15:1-33, 16:4, 17:14-15
- Mark 7:4—Here we see that the religious leaders of Israel became enamored by this practice and added a bunch of man made ordinances and traditional on top of those that the law required.
- Can there be any doubt that Israel is unclean at time John's begin preaching in the wilderness of Jordan.

John's Baptism

- Matthew 3:1-6—Consider the following details of John's message
 - John is calling Israel to repent because the kingdom of heaven is near
 - John was the forerunner of the Messiah
 - John was baptizing people with water in the Jordan River
- Mark 1:4, 14-15—These verses add the following details to our understanding of John's message
 - Baptism was required for the remission of sins
 - John's message is called the Gospel of the Kingdom
- Luke 7:29-30—These verse are not teaching baptism as an outward sign of an inward commitment rather they are clearly teaching baptism with water as a requirement for salvation.
- Notice in Luke 7:31 that Jesus tells his hearers that then living generation within Israel has a major problem.
- Matthew 3:7-11—Notice that John calls these men a generation of vipers who were trusting in the fact that they were the physical descendent of Abraham for their salvation.
- Acts 2:40—Peter warns his hearers at Pentecost that they need to saved themselves from this untoward generation. How would they do this? Acts 2:38, repents and be baptized for the remission of sins.
- John's Baptism was drawing a line in the sand within Israel in order to separate the believers from the untoward generation or apostle nation that was living in rebellion against God.

The Baptism of Jesus

- Matthew 3:13-17—Jesus Christ is baptized that he can fulfill all righteousness. After Jesus Christ is washed with water the Spirit of God descends upon him.
- Exodus 29:1-4—In order to function in the office of a priest the law required that the priest be washed with water and anointed with oil. Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. We know from the book of Hebrews that Jesus Christ is a high priest.
- Jesus Christ is baptized with water to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law for those who would function in the office of a priesthood.
- All of this helps to explain why water baptism is required for salvation in the preaching of John and the 12.
- Exodus 19:6—The entire nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of priest and holy nation.
- Isaiah 61:5-6
- I Peter 2:9—John, Jesus Christ, and the 12 were forming the believing remnant that will function as the kingdom of priests once the Kingdom of God is established. Which by the way all of whom are proclaims as at hand.
- Luke 12:32—This believing remnant is called the Little Flock
- Matthew 21:33-45—One of the fruits meet for repentance was water baptism.

Paul on Baptism

- We have already studied last week how the so-called Great Commission included the practice of water baptism as requirement from the remission of sins.
 - Mark 16:15-16
- I Corinthians 1:17—We have also already concluded that Paul was functioning under a different commission that did not include water baptism.
- Paul's commission and message do include a baptism; however, it has nothing to do with water.
- I Corinthians 12:12-13—Our baptism today is spiritual baptism into the Church the Body of Christ.
- Colossians 2:11-12—Our baptism today is not made with hands rather it is spiritual process performed by God the Holy Spirit the moment we trust Christ and

believe the gospel we are identified with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

- Ephesians 4:4-6—How many baptisms do you have?

Conclusion

- Baptism never at any time in the outworking of God's plan was an outward sign of an inward commitment.
- If you look around this church you will not find a baptismal tank or any other sacramental furniture that would be used in the performing of a water ceremony.
- Simply stated water baptism is Jewish practice that the Body of Christ is not instructed to be following during the current Dispensation of Grace.
- It causes too much confusion.
- In my view that is a big cost associated with being Scriptural but not dispensational on this issue.