

It is a day of rejoicing in that we will be baptizing three (3) saints of God after our morning service. Suzonne, Rae Lynn, and Kevin.

I thought it good this morning to preach on Biblical Baptism, which is one two ordinances of the New Testament Church commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ, the other ordinance, the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 28:19-20: "Go Make Disciples of all nations": Mark 16:15-16

When Mark's gospel says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" the Lord Jesus is teaching us the proper order; one MUST believe on Christ first, and only after faith in Christ, be BAPTIZED.

Baptizo: To immerse, submerge, or to overwhelm.

It wasn't long after Jesus spoke these words to the Apostles that "PETER" boldly preached the gospel of Christ (on the Day of Pentecost) to the multitude gathered at Jerusalem of Jews and Proselytes from every nation. *Acts 2:5.*

Peter's message: Repent! Turn from your sins to Christ! On that day the Spirit of God was poured out in the gathering/saving of many souls. On that day, 3,000 souls were saved; this was a fulfillment of *Joel 2:28-30. Peter's message: Acts 2:22-47.*

(V37-40): "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

a. The preaching of the gospel COUPLED with the power of the Holy Spirit "pricked their hearts"; convicted/convinced them of their sins!

John 16:7-11.

This is precisely the same way that God saves sinners today; the Word of God is preached/witnessed to sinners, and the Spirit of God uses the Word to powerfully draw and save the sinner. Every sinner, if you would be saved, you must come to this place of being convicted/convinced that you have sinned against God, and you URGENTLY need of His forgiveness!

Listen to their sense of urgency! Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 9:5-6, 16:29-31.

They were convicted/convinced by the Holy Spirit that they had sinned against God; that brought upon them the urgency of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Acts 2:38-40, Romans 1:16, 10:17, John 1:12-13

Acts 2:41: "Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"

And so, the Biblical model was established in this ingathering of souls! FIRST, there was the new birth; sinners were born-again by the Spirit of God; delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son!

Those sinners that were saved willingly submitted to the command of Christ to be baptized by immersion, openly and outwardly professing that they NOW identified with Christ, and believed in His death, burial, and resurrection for the salvation of their souls, and the atonement for their sins. *THAT is what baptism symbolizes.*

Understand, we are not baptizing Suzonne, Rae Lynn, and Kevin TO BE SAVED, but because they have turned from their sins to Christ and ARE SAVED!

Unfortunately, many misuse and misapply baptism.

There are those that believe, unless you are baptized, you cannot be saved, (Baptismal Regeneration); but the scriptures clearly teach that baptism follows faith in Christ, and it only administered to those who ARE born-again. *If baptism was essential to conversion, what of the penitent thief?*

There are those who baptize their “unbelieving” children by sprinkling, but there is absolutely NO scriptural command for this practice.

The thought is that their unsaved children should be baptized into the visible church as a sign that they are under the protection of the covenant of grace as circumcision was a sign in OT Israel. The problem with this is that there is absolutely NO N.T. command to such a practice.

And also, HOW can one be part of the believing church, being an unbeliever?

And there is the practice of baptizing infants, which is believed to wash away original sin. Once again, this practice is completely unbiblical.

Biblical Baptism is ONLY by immersion, and ONLY after the new-birth. There is NO other baptism commanded in the Holy Scriptures.

You will see no infants or children being sprinkled in the NT Scriptures.

Acts 8:26-40, 9:18, 16:14-15, 25-34.

Biblical Baptism = First faith in Christ, (the new birth), afterward, obedience to Christ in baptism.

1 Peter 3:18-22: The ark a symbol of baptism.

The whole time that Noah was building the ark, the disobedient scorned and mocked him. But until the day that Noah and his family entered into the ark, ANY and ALL who would come, could have come into the ark for safety from the flood, from the judgment and wrath of God.

Once they were in the ark, Genesis 7:16 tells is that God shut them in.

Luke 13:25: “When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are”

Those (8) souls entered into the ark because they believed God; ONLY those (8) souls were saved, and so ONLY those (8) were symbolically baptized in the flood.

Romans 6:3-8: Baptized into Christ. Baptized into His death.