

Understanding Jesus' Command to Baptize:

Baptism Themes in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 10:1-5; 15:29

March 8, 2015

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction:

A. Children's Sermon: What Will Our New Bodies be Like?

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.* ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But *God gives it a body as he has chosen*, and to each kind of seed its own body.

B. The Implications of Our Baptism

1. Paul's Use of Our "Baptism" in Galatians
2. Paul's Use of Our "Baptism" in Romans

Key Idea:

*Our baptism teaches that **we are in Jesus**, so what he has done, we have done; and **Jesus is in us**, giving us power to live!*

Romans 6:5-6

⁵ For **if** we have been united with him in a death like his, [**then**] we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that *our old self was crucified with him* in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, *so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

3. Paul's Use of Our "Baptism" in 1 Cor.

Key Ideas:

- 1) Baptism points to our discipleship.
- 2) Do not take your baptism for granted.
- 3) Baptism makes no sense without the resurrection.

II. Paul's Use of Our "Baptism" in 1 Corinthians

A. Baptized in the Name of...?

1 Corinthians 1:12–17 (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:5–7ff.)

...each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?¹⁴ ***I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,***¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were ***baptized in my name.***¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)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. ...

1. Baptism in the Name... Discipleship
2. Why the Priority of Preaching?
3. Baptism is Secondary (...but not Optional)

B. Trust Jesus not Your Baptism...

1. It takes deliberate effort to trust Jesus alone for our prize...

1 Corinthians 9:24, 27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives **the prize**? So ***run that you may obtain it.*** ...²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 10:1–5

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were **baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,**³ and all ate the same ***spiritual food,***⁴ and all drank the same ***spiritual drink.*** For they drank from ***the spiritual Rock that followed them,*** and **the Rock was Christ** (Rock? Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:8 - Garland!).

⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

2. Why speak of the Cloud & the Sea as a “**Baptism** into Moses”?
 - a. Seeing that Jesus is Trustworthy is not the same thing as Trusting Him
 - b. Specific warnings from Israel’s bad examples in the wilderness

1 Corinthians 10:6–12

⁶ Now these things took place as **examples for us**, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ **Do not be idolaters as some of them were**; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” (Ex. 32:6) ⁸ **We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did**, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. (Ex. 32:25–28; Num. 25:9) ⁹ **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did** and were destroyed by serpents (Num. 21:4–6), ¹⁰ **nor grumble**, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer (Num. 14; Ex. 12:23; 2 Sam. 24:16; 1 Chr. 21:15; Ps. 78:49). ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but **they were written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Numbers 21:4b–6

...And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “*Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.*” ⁶ Then the Lord sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

(Unrepentant/deliberate sin is deadly – Hebrews 10:26–27)

4. Trust God not Yourself

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, **and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability**, but with the temptation **he will also provide the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.

C. Baptism Makes No Sense Without the Resurrection (Most important – 1 Cor. 15:1–11)

1 Corinthians 15:25-26, 29-32

²⁵ For [Jesus] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* ...

²⁹ Otherwise, *what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?*

³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

1. Baptized on behalf of dead Christians (who never were baptized)??
2. Baptized for the sake of the dead (i.e. become Christians with the certain hope of being reunited with dead loved ones)

G. G. Findlay – “Paul is referring ... to a ... normal experience, that the death of Christians leads to the conversion of survivors, who in the first instance ‘for the sake of the dead’ (their beloved dead) and in the hope of re-union, turn to Christ—e.g., when a dying mother wins her son by the appeal ‘Meet me in heaven!’”ⁱⁱ

Key Idea:

Let nothing distract us from trusting Jesus. Overcome each temptation to win the prize of eternal life.

ⁱ “Garland (2003: 456–57) suggests that “Paul may have incorporated a traditional Jewish interpretation of the following rock, but he gives it a uniquely Christian twist: ‘The rock was Christ.’ He is not thinking of a material rock following them, or a movable well, but of the divine source of the water that journeyed with them. He understands the replenishing rock in a spiritual sense, not a physical sense.””
Beale, G. K., & Carson, D. A. (2007). *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament* (p. 724). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos.

ⁱⁱ Thiselton, A. C. (2000). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 1248). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.