

**THEME: AN OVERVIEW OF BAPTISM FOR WORTHY PARTICIPATION**

**I. THE SIGN OF BAPTISM: WATER**

- A. CLEANSING FROM OUR SINS** (*expiation, propitiation, reconciliation*; 1Jn.1:7,9; Heb.10:2; Jms.4:8; and our death; see 2Kngs.5:1f; Rom.6:23)
- B. ENLIVENING IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** (*justification, sanctification*; Rom.5:1f(chps.3,4); 6:3-5)
- C. ONE SIGN WITH TWOFOLD SIGNIFICANCE** (2Cor.5:21; Eph.4:20f&25f; see Lk.22:19f)
- D. SIGN: TO BE SEEN** (Mt.24:30; see Is.40:5(Lk.3:6); Ezk.20:48; see Acts 16:33)

**II. THE WORDS OF BAPTISM: INTO THE NAME**

**A. NAME**

- 1. *The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit* (Mt.28:18-20; see 2Cor.13:14; note: A.A.A.)
- 2. *(Lord) Jesus (Christ): one and therefore all* (Acts 2:38; 8:12,16; 10:48; 19:5; see Jn.14:9,26; 15:26; Eph.2:18; Rom.8:9; 1Jn.2:23)
- 3. *ownership: jealousy; provision, protection//allegiance* (Is.43:1,7; Rev.2:13; see 1Cor.6:20; 7:23)

**B. INTO** (Rom.6:3; see Mt.28:19,Grk.; see *Dynamic of the Biblical Ethic* in Principles of Conduct, John Murray; TCP)

- 1. *union* (Rom.6:3,5; see 1Cor.12:13)
- 2. *sufferings; crucifixion, death, burial // resurrection, life; glorification* (Rom.6:3-6,11; 8:17; see Col.2:10-12; 2:20&3:1f; 3:9&10; 3:5f&3:12f)
- 3. *note: the baptism of Jesus by John* (Mt.3:13f; Mk.1:9f; Lk.3:21f)

**III. THE OBJECTS OF BAPTISM: ALL OF YOU**

**A. BELIEVERS...** (Acts 2:38; see Mk.1:15; see 1Cor.6:20; 7:23)

**B. ... AND THEIR CHILDREN**

- 1. *NT examples: households* (Acts 2:39; 16:14,15; 31-34; see Heb.2:13)
- 2. *OT context: circumcision* (Gen.17:2f (see Jer.4:4&14; Col.2:11,12); see Rom.4:9f; Gen.17:10f & 21:4)
- 3. *biblical illustrations: piece-lump* (Rom.11:16a); *root-branch* (Rom.11:16bf; see 1Cor.7:14); *citizenship* (Phil.3:20); *inheritance* (Gal.3:29f)
- 4. *great difference between children of believers and children of unbelievers* (Rom.11:16b,17; 20-23)

**C. GOAL: FAITH PLANTED & GROWN TO MATURITY & FRUITFULNESS** (see 2Tm.1:5; 3:14f (1Pt.1:23); see Gen.21:4; 26:1-6,23-25; 28:10f; see Ps.78:1-8)

**IV. THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM: A CONFIRMED CALL TO REPENTANCE & FAITH**

**A. WORD & SIGN: EXPLAINED & CONFIRMED** (Gen.9:9f; 15:18; 17:10f; Ex.4:1,5,28; 1Kngs.17:23f; see Heb.2:3,4 (6:18); see Jms.2:18f & Rom.3:19-24)

**B. UNBAPTIZED: A CALL TO REPENTANCE, FAITH & BAPTISM** (Acts 2:38,39; 16:30-34; see Acts 22:16; 2Kngs.5:11-14; Jn.9:7)

**C. BAPTIZED: A CALL TO PERSEVERANCE & IMPROVEMENT** (1Pt.3:21 & 2Pt.1:9,5f; Song 5:3; see Phil.3:12; Col.3:9,10,5f; see Mt.28:18-20; see Larger Catechism, Q.167)

*Brethren, what shall WE DO?* (see Acts 2:37f)