

# Understanding Jesus' Command to Baptize:

## Baptism: Care More & Fight Less

Mark 16:16; Ephesians 1:3–10

January 11, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

### I. Introduction: The Joy of Being a Student of Jesus

A. Children's Sermon: Means of Grace

#### 2 Peter 1:3–4

[Jesus'] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, *through the knowledge of him* who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great **promises**, *so that through them* you may become *partakers of the divine nature*...

B. What I Hope to Gain from this Study? Clarity, Humility and Charity

#### Mark 16:16

Whoever believes *and is baptized* will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

#### Core Conviction:

*I believe we should care more about understanding our baptism than we typically do. And, I believe we should be much less inclined to fight about it.*

#### 1. Clarity: What is Baptism? Why do we practice it?

The question of whether the church should baptize infants is intrinsically complex, for it is impossible to do justice to it without bringing into the discussion the larger question of one's view of the sacraments in general. And [this] involves one's view of the whole matter of salvation, understood as God's gracious act of pardon and reconciliation mediated to the sinner in and through... the Christian church. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Mr. Paul K. Jewett.** *Infant Baptism and the Covenant of Grace* (Kindle Locations 68-71). Kindle Edition.

## 2. **Humility & Charity** for Brothers Who Understand Baptism Differently

...the practice of closed membership is still widely insisted on in Baptist circles. This, to me, is very unfortunate; for though the defense of infant baptism may not be a good cause, it does not follow that the people who make this defense are not good Christians and worthy members of the Christian church. To have the conviction that baptism should not be administered to infants is quite different from the intolerance that excludes all dissent from the fellowship of the church. <sup>2</sup>

To probe the depth of the Paedobaptist argument, therefore, should make the Baptist, if not less a Baptist, yet more tolerant of his brethren. And if this is true for the Baptist, it is surely no less true for the Paedobaptist. <sup>3</sup>

## II. **Where to Start? (What is Baptism?)**

### *Today's Thesis:*

*Baptism is a Covenant Ceremony instituted by God in order to bind us to Jesus.*

### A. Baptism Grammar

1. **Baptism** – To Dip or Immerse in Water
2. **Believers Baptism** – Believers Only Baptism
3. **Credobaptism** – Believers Only Baptism
3. **Paedobaptism** – Baptism of Infants
4. **Ordinances** – A Command (Given by Jesus)
5. **Sacraments** – WC, “holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace” <sup>4</sup>
6. **Mediated** – The way God gives us gifts
7. **Covenant** – A Relationship Bound Together with Vows
8. **Covenant of Grace** – God's Promise to Bless His Chosen Seed (Cf. Genesis 17:6–7)

### B. What is Baptism?

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. (Kindle Locations 104-106).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. (Kindle Locations 107-108).

<sup>4</sup> Westminster Assembly. (1851). *The Westminster Confession of Faith: Edinburgh Edition* (pp. 143–144). Philadelphia: William S. Young.

1. ...it is an **Ordinance/Command** (Mt. 28:19)
2. ...it is a literal dipping in **Water**

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### Baptism as a metaphor...

#### **Holy Spirit**

Mt 3:11–12 “I baptize you ... with unquenchable fire.”

Ac 1:4–5 And while staying ... days from now.”

#### **Baptism of Suffering**

Lk 12:50 I have a baptism to be baptized with...!

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### **John 3:22–23**

<sup>22</sup> After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was **baptizing**. <sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized

3. ...it is a **Sacrament**... What is a Sacrament?

WC – Sacraments are **holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace**, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ and his benefits, and to confirm our interest in him; as also to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his word.<sup>5</sup>

Calvin – ...one may call it a testimony of divine grace toward us, confirmed by an outward sign, with mutual attestation of our piety toward him.<sup>6</sup>

### **Ephesians 1:7–9**

<sup>7</sup> In [Jesus] we have *redemption* through his blood, the *forgiveness* of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the *mystery* [Sacramentum] of his will...

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid. (pp. 143–144).

<sup>6</sup> **Calvin, J.** (2011). *Institutes of the Christian Religion & 2.* (F. L. Battles, Trans., J. T. McNeill, Ed.) (Vol. 1, p. 1277). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

4. ...it is a **Covenant Ceremony binding us to Jesus** (Marriage, Union with Christ's body, Discipleship, Citizenship)

### III. How Does God Accomplish this Union i and through Water Baptism?

- A. In the Same Way as Marriage (Mt. 19:6; Mk. 10:9)  
B. The Need for the Word and the Spirit (Calvin)

#### 1 Peter 3:22

**Baptism**, which corresponds to *this*, now *saves you*, not as a removal of dirt from the body but *as an appeal to God for a good conscience*, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

#### Colossians 3:2–3

<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

#### Key Idea

*Baptism is a Covenant Ceremony instituted by God in order to bind us to Jesus.*

#### Mark 16:16

Whoever believes *and is baptized* will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

#### 1 Peter 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, *arm yourselves with the same way of thinking*, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh *no longer for human passions but for the will of God.*