

Title: A NEW CREATION, MARK 1:9-11
(Chatham, NJ; 01/11/15, AM) [D – Topical, Deductive]

Theme: Jesus led the way to the new life and a new creation by his submitting to baptism.

Purpose: To explain that baptism is a necessary step toward living a new life: by it we receive the Holy Spirit and come in contact with the saving, cleansing blood of Christ.

Introduction:

1. Jesus became a human in order to become a faithful high priest and to identify with humanity, Hebrews 2:14-18.
2. He also submitted to baptism to identify with us and to lead the way to becoming a new creation, hence, "to fulfill all righteousness."
3. This Christian rite of cleansing marks the time that a person passes from the old life to the new.

I. Ordained by God: the Voice and the Dove, Mark 1:9-11

- A. God's voice – His delight and approval
 1. When God speaks, creation obeys, Genesis 1
 2. His voice thunders, Psalm 29
 3. His voice was heard also: Transfiguration ("Listen to him"); at the time Jesus was about to be glorified, John 12:28.
 4. Furthermore, when God speaks and we hear his voice, we must not refuse him, Hebrews 12:25-27.
- B. The Dove: the presence and approval of the H. S.
 1. Why both the Spirit and the voice?
 2. An affirmation of God's presence among men?
 3. Like when the Spirit rested on the newly anointed David.
 4. Jesus was "Immanuel: God with us," Mt. 1:23
 5. These two witnesses leave no doubts about Jesus
 6. Jesus was ordained by God
 7. In addition, baptism is ordained as God's initiation rite

II. Baptism: Where Man Meets God

- A. Born of water and the spirit, John 3
 1. Man needs a spiritual rebirth, verses 3-6
 2. How to be "born of God" is this Gospel's message, 1:12-13
 3. This has nothing to do with natural birth: Nicodemus thinks it does and is confused by the thought
 4. But the birth involves water and the Spirit, a connection made in Acts 2:38
 5. Baptism is the physical act that God has ordained to be where we meet him
- B. Identify with the death and resurrection of Christ, Romans 6:1-4
 1. The rite that demands a changed life, 1
 2. The burial in water symbolizes the death of Christ
 3. It means we die to the ways of sin
 4. Coming up out of the water symbolizes the resurrection
 5. It means we now live a new life

III. Baptism: Not Something in Addition to Faith, but Rather an Act of Faith

- A. Galatians 3:26-27, the Bible reveals an important parallel of faith with baptism
 1. We are sons of God by faith, 26

2. Without faith, there is no point in even discussing baptism or discipleship or obedience or most anything else
3. We must believe that Jesus is ordained by the Father and by whom we are united with the Him
4. Yet Paul also says, "as many of you as were baptized have put on Christ," 27
5. Thus faith and baptism become a coordinated team to bring us into a relationship with God through the saving work of Christ
6. Those who have responded by believing in Jesus and submitting to baptism are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise

B. 1 Peter 3:21

1. Baptism corresponds to the water of the flood that saved Noah and separated him from the judgment against sin
2. Noah saved from judgment by the flood; we are saved from it by baptism
3. "Now saves you" – two experiences with this: Joe Lennon, evangelical pastor
4. Through the resurrection – not just the water
5. Not a removal of dirt, but of a dirty conscience
6. Without the Spirit, it would be just a bath

Conclusion:

1. God has spoken through his Son, Hebrews 1:1-2.
2. His submission to baptism and God's witnesses to it ordain it as the means by which we appropriate the death, burial, and resurrection and receive the Holy Spirit.
3. Remember your confession, 1 Timothy 6:12 (and your baptism).
4. We are new creations 2 Corinthians 5:17.
5. Believe, repent, confess, and be baptized: still the tried and true means of coming to Christ, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, and being cleansed of your sins.