

Title: BAPTISM OF JESUS, MATTHEW 3:13-17
(Chatham, NJ; 01/12/14, AM) [D – Topical]

Theme: Baptism by water and the spirit always has been and will continue to be the means by which a person enters into a sinless, sanctified relationship with God through the resurrection of Christ.

Purpose: To demonstrate that baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins and for entrance into the church.

Introduction:

1. Evangelicals and Protestants in general have, for the most part, resisted any attempts to believe that baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.
2. Rather than refute each of their arguments, let's remind ourselves of the New Testament teachings that cannot be denied or twisted and which definitively teach that baptism is necessary for forgiveness and entrance into the church.
3. Our teaching begins with the baptism of Jesus, Mt. 3:13-17.

I. Jesus Submits to Baptism

- A. John's baptism of repentance
 1. The lesser baptizes the greater; John knows this
 2. Jesus answers that this is "to fulfill all righteousness"
 3. First, he is willing to identify with sinners
 4. Second, he demonstrates and leads the way to salvation
 5. Third, baptism eventually becomes the medium of saving fellowship with God
 6. Otherwise, why do this?
- B. The Great Commission ties in
 1. What Jesus did at the beginning, he commands at the end.
 2. Mt. 28:19 – baptize them
 3. An essential part of making disciples

II. Born again, John 3:5

- A. Water and the Spirit involved
 1. The water cannot be the water of natural birth, John 1:12-13
 2. Jesus is not talking about physical childbirth; this is what confuses Nicodemus
 3. Water cannot be symbolic of anything else
 4. The rest of the New Testament affirms that water is baptism
- B. Confirmation of baptism
 1. Acts 2:38 and 41 are early affirmations
 2. Acts 10:47 confirms it even more
 3. It is Peter's immediate response when he sees that God has poured out the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles
 4. Why does he immediately suggest this: can anyone forbid baptism?

III. New Testament Affirmations

- A. Romans 6:1-4
 1. We have died to sin, 2
 2. Baptized into Christ's death, 3
 3. Buried in order to be raised to new life, 4
 4. The imagery of immersion is apparent
 5. Only in baptism do we identify with Christ's death

B. Galatians 3:26-27

1. Sons of God through faith, 26
2. Put on Christ in baptism, 27
3. Parallel ideas combine faith and baptism
4. The combination of these satisfies the idea that baptism is closely allied with faith in our becoming Christians
5. If we are Christ's, we are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise, 29

C. 1 Peter 3:21

1. As Noah was saved by water, so baptism saves us
2. The minister of the Free Evangelical Fellowship in Massachusetts said, "I wish Peter hadn't said it that way." (He knew it challenged his "faith only" doctrine)
3. Not removal of dirt from the body
4. An appeal to God for a clean conscience
5. Saves you through the resurrection of Christ

Conclusions:

1. Jesus was baptized to demonstrate the way of salvation.
2. He teaches Nicodemus that water and the Holy Spirit combine to give us a spiritual rebirth; both items are necessary.
3. The early church affirms that baptism became the initiation rite for salvation, forgiveness of sins, and entrance into the church.
4. We are Abraham's offspring by faith and baptism.
5. We affirm that to be a disciple, you must be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mt. 28:19.