

Doctrine of Baptisms Lesson 4

PUTTING ON CHRIST

Reading: Galatians 3:26-29

In the Old Testament we find types and shadows that were used by God to picture the realities which were to be fulfilled in the person of Christ and then in us as we participate in His life. For example The Red Sea in the Old Testament is a type of The Waters Of Baptism fulfilled in us.

1. WHAT LESSONS DO WE LEARN FROM THE RED SEA?

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (1 Corinthians 10:1-2).

A. Baptism is a memorial.

We are baptized into water because of the death of Jesus. By faith we identify with His death. Those of Israel who were baptized in the sea knew their deliverance from Egypt had been purchased with the slain blood of a lamb.

B. Baptism involves a confession.

We confess our sin and He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin. We are both forgiven and freed from sin. Similarly Israel confessed that they were slaves. They cried out to God and the Lord heard them and delivered them.

C. Baptism announces a separation.

When the waters rolled back by God's intervention, Israel marched through on dry land. The armies of Pharaoh pursued them. God then allowed the waters to return. All the horses with their riders were drowned. The power behind our habitual sin is broken. Baptism is our announcement of separation from sin.

D. Baptism means accepting a new identity.

We are now set apart to God. Everything belongs to Christ. Israel was to be a part of Egypt no more.

2. WITH WHOM DO WE BECOME ASSOCIATED THROUGH WATER BAPTISM?

Baptism joins us to Christ and to His people. Before putting on Christ in water baptism, our identity was defined in terms of our reference groups in this world: nationality, economic and social status, sex roles, and the like. Those all become meaningless in defining who we are once we are thoroughly identified with Christ.

A. We put on Christ Himself.

We are not only baptized into the name of Christ and into His rule or Lordship, but into **Him**. The centre of our affections is no longer on ourselves.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:2-3).

B. We are placed in the Body of Christ.

God desires a corporate expression of Himself in the earth. We are not only members of Himself, but of each other. This spiritual bond takes place through water baptism.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. (1 Corinthians 12:13-14).

3. DOES IT MATTER WHAT NAME IS USED IN BAPTIZING?

The name is the expression of authority. The Disciples were authorized to continue Christ's work on earth "in His name" - as agents having the power of attorney. Both the power of His presence and the legal authority of His position at the right hand of God are resident in His name. All through the Bible, God has manifested Himself by name. The name needed in water baptism is the one showing the completeness of the entire Godhead: the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. All through the New Testament baptism was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The use of the name of Jesus was not merely to distinguish Christian baptism from the baptism of John, but to initiate the person into a relationship of submission to Jesus Christ as Lord.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ... Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:36,38).

B. The fullness of the Godhead is expressed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus told His disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19). Notice this says "name," not "names." What is the name? Only in the Lord Jesus Christ is the full power and presence of the Godhead invoked.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Colossians 2:9-10).

C. All things are to be done in the name of Jesus.

Healing the sick, casting out demons, preaching - all extension of His work is done in His own name.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. (Colossians 3:17).

D. Just as Israel was baptized unto Moses, we are baptized unto a personal leader.

We are not baptized into a religion or into some vague essence. Baptism places us into a living relationship with a real person. "The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a term expressing the important truth of the tri-unity of God. These are not personal names, but rather titles. We discover the person of God and His personality in the face of Jesus Christ.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. (Luke 1:31).

4. WHEN SHOULD BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

As we look at the records of the early Church we find that baptism was administered as people responded to the gospel. Baptism is a meaningful response in obedience to the gospel, it must be done with understanding.

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:36-37).

5. RECORDS OF WATER BAPTISM IN THE EARLY CHURCH.

A. 3000 believers.

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (Acts 2:37-41).

B. All who believed.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. (Acts 8:12).

C. Ethiopian eunuch.

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:36-39).

D. Saul of Tarsus.

Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. (Acts 9:18).

E. House of Cornelius (Gentiles).

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days. (Acts 10:44-48).

F. Lydia and her household.

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. (Acts 16:14-15).

G. Philippine jailer and household.

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. (Acts 16:32-34).

H. Crispus and many others.

Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8).

I. 12 disciples of John the Baptist.

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. (Acts 19:1-7).

Study Application:

What four things about water baptism do we learn from Israel's passing through the Red Sea?

Who do we become associated with through water baptism?

When should believers be baptized in water?

Study this lesson until you feel confident and ready to discuss the importance of water baptism with others.