

The Obedience of Faith: Baptism August 18, 2019 19063-A

Matt.3:13-17; Rom.15:18; 1:5; Matt.28:18-20

I. How does the “obedience of faith” show? *Christian Baptism. Jesus identified with us.*

A. Greek word Baptidzo means to immerse, dunk. Used of dying cloth.

1. It is always done by somebody else—somebody representing the Christian community.
2. It is always done to somebody who has expressed a knowledgeable, credible and genuine faith in Christ.

B. It is the first act of obedience of faith in the Christian life.

1. The “obedience of faith” included the entire package of repentant faith and water baptism.

C. It is significant = a sign

1. It is a material sign of an invisible reality. Like Communion
2. The sacraments/ordinances are material portals that connect us with the Spirit realities of God. These are symbolic, but they are more than symbolic as well.
3. The spirit realm does affect the material realm and your body and spirit are intimately connected. What has happened in your spirit (regeneration) needs a material expression in your body.
4. Salvation is physical—your current body will be resurrected in Christ and so you should put it in the water now.

II. What Baptism Signifies. Matt. 28:19-20; Rom.6:1-5; Col.2:6-14; 1 Pet.3:18-22.

A. It signifies materially the Spiritual experience of salvation in Christ.

1. Cleansing from sin. Col.2:6-14
 - a) You were washed, cleansed,
2. Union with Christ. Eph.1:1-10
 - a) You are a new kind of human, metaphysically joined to God in Christ.
 - b) “In Christ” language is used over 200 times in the NT
3. Regeneration by the Spirit. 1 Cor.12:12-13; 6:14-20
 - a) Your body immersed in the Spirit and joined to God.
4. Immersion in the life of the Trinity. John 17:20-23
 - a) Drawn into the Trinitarian life!!

B. It signifies the beginning of faith and discipleship. Acts.2:38; 8:36; 16:33; 22:16;

1. This is why it is done as soon as possible upon a profession of faith.

III. What are you saying when you get baptized? Matt. 28:18-20

A. Jesus Christ is the Risen and Saving Lord. Rom.10:9-10

1. He is God in the flesh who died for my sins came back from the dead. (Rom 10:9-10)
2. He is the current ruler of the universe and will be the physical ruler of the earth.

B. I have repented and declared loyalty to Him. Mk.1:15; Lk.24:47

1. I have repented of my evil.
 - a) and given my body, soul, and spirit to Him.

C. I am trusting Him alone for my forgiveness and eternal life. Rom.3:28

1. I have repented of my goodness.
2. I don't rely on my ability to be good, but on Christ's ability and sacrifice on my behalf.

D. I am His disciple now and forever. Matt.11:25-30

1. His words and ways are what I am about.

IV. What is the Lord saying when you get baptized?

A. I have always known you. Eph.1:1-10

1. Chosen in Christ since before the world??

B. I have joined you to Myself in Christ materially, spiritually and eternally. Col.2

1. You have died already and will be raised up eternally. Col.3:1-4

C. I have forgiven you sins, all of them. Col.2

1. Washed and clean forever

D. I have regenerated you by my Spirit. 1 Cor.12:12-13; Titus 3:4-7

1. You are empowered by My Spirit to live for me in this world. Rom.6

E. I have begun a transformation in you that will result in your resurrection. Phil.1:6; Rom.12:1-2.