The Meaning of Baptism

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INTRODUCTION

- We often, when it matters, we seek an objective standard, don't we? When it really matters, we don't want to take somebody's word for it.
- I can think of no subject matter more important than our relationship to God.
- A standard so authoritative that it ends all suspicions and all questionings. And that standard is the Word of God.

1 Baptism Is an Immersion in Water

Romans 6:3–4; Acts 8:35–38

- The word itself, the word baptism, literally means immersion, or a burial.
- We were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness in life.
- Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.
- Looking at the objective standard, we can come to no other conclusion other than baptism is an immersion in water.

2 Baptism Does Not Work Alone

Acts 8:37; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

- Baptism is not a singular act. That it works in conjunction with other responses of man.
- Philip says, if you believe. Meaning that if it was not accompanied and preceded by faith, that baptism would mean nothing.
- Except you repent, Jesus said, you will perish.
- Baptism is a part, an important part, but just one part of God's plan of salvation.

3 It Is God Who Washes Away Our Sins

1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16; Hebrews 10:22

- It is God who is washing away their sins. That baptism is not an act of man's devising, it is not some action upon which we can base human boasting.
- Baptism. Not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- That's what I'm doing when I'm baptized. I'm not saving myself. I'm doing what God has commanded me to do. And I'm saying, God, wash away my sins.
- Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- Let us draw near with a true heart, and a full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

4 Baptism Is for the Remission of Sins

Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28

- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- This is my blood which is shed for the remission of sin. Same phrase, exact same words, for the remission of sins.
- They submitted to that plan. God's calling us to be disciples, not theologians.
- We just simply need to go to the objective standard and says, That's what God asked me to do. Then that's what I'll do.

5 One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

Ephesians 4:5; Acts 19:1–5

- Paul says, there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
- There's just one faith that's accepted by God.
- What do you mean there's just one baptism? There's just one that'll get you in a right relationship with God.
- There's just one that will wash away your sin.
- They had been baptized, but not into the one baptism.
- When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you submit to God's plan today?**

MY NOTES