Understanding Baptism

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INTRODUCTION

- When it comes to God's word, misunderstanding what God teaches on a subject can have far more detrimental consequences than just being embarrassed.
- We want to make sure that when we read and study God's Word, that we are reading and studying it to understand it, to know exactly what God says on a subject and apply it.
- Let's talk about the subject of baptism and understanding instead of misunderstanding it.

1 Baptism Cannot Be Ignored

Romans 6:1–4; Galatians 3:26–27; 1 Peter 3:21

- It's obviously a subject that cannot be ignored. It will not allow itself to be ignored. It is talked about so prevalently in the New Testament.
- Every account of conversion in the book of Acts includes baptism. It can't be ignored.
- Do you not know that as many of you as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.
- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.
- Any honest reader of Scripture cannot ignore baptism. It's there, it's there over and over.

2 Where It's Supposed to Be

- We don't ignore it, but what do we do with it?
- You tape that important piece to the back of the bookshelf. And you say, there. It's in there.
- I feel like that's what some religious groups have done with baptism. It can't be ignored. It's there, it sounds important. And so let's kind of stick it in there somewhere.
- If this piece is important, it not only needs to be in there, stuck on the side somewhere, but it needs to be where it needs to be, where it's supposed to be.
- We may have to deconstruct our whole belief system to make sure it's where it's supposed to be.

3 Baptism Attached to Discipleship, Faith and Jesus

Matthew 28:18–19; Mark 16:15–16

- Baptism was a key part of people becoming his disciples. Preach the word, make disciples, baptizing them.
- He attaches it to what inarguably is the greatest and most important response we can have to God, and that is faith.
- He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.
- Baptism is attached to Jesus Himself.
- Baptism puts us in contact with the one who died upon that cross, that puts us in contact with his death, his burial, his resurrection, and his blood.

4 What's Accomplished in Baptism

Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27

- If God says we are baptized into his death, that we put on Christ in baptism. How could he have said it any stronger?
- In baptism, we obey Christ's command. That we become his disciples by being baptized into him. We are saved.
- The forgiveness of our sins is accomplished in baptism.
- Ananias told Saul to arise and to be baptized, washing away your sins.
- We are buried with him and raised with him in baptism.
- If that's what's accomplished in baptism, then what is my state if I have not been baptized for the forgiveness of my sins?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not come to Him in trusting faith, confess your faith, repent of your sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins? You, like Saul, can arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.**

MY NOTES