



Week 5: The New Testament Roots of Baptism

Date: March 14th, 2021

† Cornelius, his household, and the rest of the story. *Acts 10:44-48*

† When we consider the understanding and practice of baptism across Christianity, there is much DISAGREEMENT!

† Across the spectrum of Christianity, much of the understanding regarding baptism flows from church TRADITION.

A hallmark of our doctrinal heritage is that when considering anything such as the meaning of baptism, we always first ask the question: What is the testimony of SCRIPTURE?

† The first reference to baptism in the New Testament is the ministry of John the Baptist. This was a baptism of REPENTANCE. *Mark 1:4-8*

† The next reference to baptism is Jesus' command from the GREAT COMMISSION. *Matthew 28:18-20*

Jesus' command to be baptized is inseparable from three core realities of faith in Christ

- We are called to be DISCIPLES
- We are called to OBEDIENCE to Christ
- As believers, our identification with the TRINITY- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- † Next, we see baptism as taught and practiced in the book of Acts.
- Baptism is a work of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 1:4-5*
 - Peter's invitation on the day of PENTECOST *Acts 2:38*
 - In Acts, we see TEN instances of persons baptized after believing. *Acts 16:32-33*
- † So, *how* were people baptized? There are only two descriptions in NT of how Baptism was carried out, and both were by IMMERSION.
- † Through the rest of the New Testament, we see the overwhelming emphasis that baptism is an INNER REALITY, and physical baptism is an outer symbol and confession of that reality- what God did in us when we first BELIEVED. *Romans 6:1-5, Galatians 3:26-28, Colossians 2:9-13*
- † Baptism is a symbol of what God fully accomplished in us at the point of our salvation, and as such it is NOT a requirement of salvation, nor does the physical act of baptism impart salvation. *Acts 10:44-48, 1 Peter 3:21*
- † Baptism isn't just a confession of our personal faith in Christ- it demonstrates the essential reality of our unity with the Body of Christ, the COMMUNITY of believers, the church. *1 Corinthians 12:12-14*
- † As human beings created in the image of God, we celebrate baptism because we are not just spiritual... we are also PHYSICAL.

Next Week: "*An Invitation into Life.*" *Acts 11:1-18*