

## BAPTISM - 01

### ATTENTION:

There are things that we do here at LBCoC and you need to know why we practice them.

- It's possible that you have been with us a while and you aren't exactly sure why we practice baptism.
- We are going to tell you why we practice baptism and what it represents.

There is an interesting story from 450 AD about St Patrick in Ireland and King Aengus at the Rock of Cashel.

- The King requested to be baptized by St Patrick.
- So they prepared for the ceremony with all of the royal grandeur that would accompany such an event.
- Patrick preached a brief lesson while King Aengus waited. Then Patrick prayed.
  - During his rather robust prayer Patrick lifted the golden ornate sharply pointed staff and brought it down on the king's foot. The king winced but didn't make a sound.
  - It wasn't until they were up to their waste in the water that Patrick noticed what had happened
  - King Aengus' foot was bleeding profusely.
  - Patrick continued baptizing the king.
  - Once they were finished, they apologetically asked the king why he didn't say anything to let them know what had happened and he replied, "I just thought it was part of the ritual."
- Now we don't do that here.

### ATTUNE: But we do place a high priority on baptism

Baptism in the religious world:

- Some churches have little or no place for the rite of baptism
  - But frankly they are in the minority.
- Most churches of different stripes/traditions put quite a bit of emphasis on baptism.
  - But if you go there you might not know that because many churches never talk about baptism.

- A couple of reasons why we under emphasize baptism while believing that it is very important:
  1. Concerned that it might appear they are promoting works righteousness.
    - Sensitive to the appearance of turning the Gospel into something that man has to do in order to deserve his salvation.
    - No church that I know wants to teach that a man can save himself or that God cares more about the external than the heart.
    - Baptism can be presented in in that light.
      - Taking the emphasis off the cross and on man's performance.
    - Because that can happen some churches are afraid to talk about baptism at all.
  2. Concern for religious division.
    - Baptism - actually meant to be a uniting act but is often the source of bitter debate among believers.
    - This may be a pretty good idea when dealing with issues about which the NT has little or nothing to say.
    - But baptism is too central to our relationship with Christ to not discuss.

### BODY:

#### TRANSITION!

The division surrounding baptism is not the result of a shortage of Biblical texts.

- I can't address all the important passages concerning baptism in one lesson.
  - That is why we are going to have a couple of lessons in order to deal with more of these texts.
  - The problem when we talk about baptism/division is that...
    - ...we all tend to bring our theological presuppositions to the texts
    - ...we all tend to read into those texts what we have already decided they must mean.
    - ✳ it is very hard to just let the Bible speak because we have already made up our minds.
- Don't want to say more/less than NT says about baptism
- Let's look at some major texts that pertain to baptism today.

## I. ACTS 2:38 Consider what it has to say about baptism

*37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- Peter says that water and Spirit meet at baptism.
  - Baptism is the time of the new birth Jesus mentions in John 3 *5 Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*
- This Right away challenges a presupposition
  - Many have decided that baptism cannot have anything to do with the saving moment
  - Yet Peter here says that it does.
    - Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*
  - "It cannot possibly say that. So it must mean we are to be baptized because our sins have already been forgiven."
  - Three Problems With That Interpretation:
    1. That is simply not what it says...
      - Exact same phrase in original Greek language in [Matthew 26](#) when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper.
        - ...this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*
      - Does anyone here believe that Jesus poured out His blood **because our sins were forgiven?**
        - Nobody believes that is what it says there.
    2. Not correct that we **repent** because our sins have been forgiven.
    3. **vs. 37**
      - Peter has just explained that these people had crucified their own Messiah.
      - Their *hearts were pierced* because of what they had done.
        - They then asked *what do we do?*
        - They are not asking what they needed to do because their sins have already been forgiven
        - BUT what to do to get forgiven for what they have done.
      - They're told *repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus.*

## II. Romans 6:3-4 Consider what it has to say about baptism

- You might be thinking, "Are you saying water can take sins away?"
  - You may say, "I have been told all my life that that cannot happen."
    - Well you have been told correctly!
    - Water can't take away sins.
  - Let's look at another verse to help with that.
    - 3 Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.*

Romans 6: 3-4

### Side Point:

- Do you know what the original word for baptism means? We will answer that is two ways:
  1. The word in Gk is baptizo = dip, plunge or to immerse.
  2. You get that idea from how it is used [Romans 6 we were buried with Him in baptism.](#)
    - At LBCOC we practice the total immersion of believers because we think it is consistent with the word's meaning and with the statement that it is a burial.
- Back to point above – *water does not take sins away*
  - The efficiency is not in the H2O but baptism is an act identifying with the death and resurrection of Jesus.
  - Paul doesn't say that we have believed into His death, ...repented into His death **BUT** baptized into His death.
- Some say baptism is a symbol = **No**
  - It is more than a symbol.
  - Baptism is participation in the death/resurrection of Jesus.
    - Important - it was in dying Jesus shed His blood for us.
    - Hear me closely, "Water cannot remove sin."
    - The only thing that can remove sin is the blood of Jesus.
    - AND He shed His blood when He died.
  - What Paul is saying is that you actually connect with His death and participate in the dying of Jesus.
    - You contact what Jesus accomplished when he died.

- The saving work of Jesus has its fulfillment in a specific historic event in your life!

## **PROJECT:**

We will continue next week with things like:

- Baptism is an act of faith advertising one's decision to follow Jesus!
- Baptism placed us where all of the spiritual blessings are given to the us.
- Baptism has too long divided us and must unite us.
- Knowing enough to be baptized, what's it take?
- Where does the bible tell us to baptize babies, or does it?
  
- We will be looking further in the weeks to come so if you have further questions you would like to have addressed specifically please write them down and give them to me or text/email me with them.

## **ACTION:**

- Anyone here today ready to baptized into Christ?
- We have everything you will need to be baptized right now yet you must provide the knowledge of Jesus as the divine Son of God, the repenting of your sins and the commitment to give God the control of your life – making Him you Lord/Ruler!