

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 & Mark 16:14-20 Cat 26.69-71
Singing: 304:1, 3, 6, 7 – 226:1-3 – 191:1, 4, 5, 6 -- 242

Intro: Jesus' commission contains the command to *baptize*

A. This elevates the significance of baptism in the Kingdom work

B. The position of this command between 'teach & observe is significant

THE PURPOSE AND PICTURE OF HOLY BAPTISM

A. The purpose of Holy Baptism is to assure the believers

B. The picture of Holy Baptism is to display salvation

I. THE PURPOSE OF HOLY BAPTISM IS TO ASSURE THE BELIEVERS

A. Baptism is to follow upon confession of faith: Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-38

1. It belongs therefore to 'believers' in the first place (q. 69)

2. What is the main purpose of baptism?

a. it is to assure that *Christ's work is of real advantage to the believers*

- it does that by pointing to treasures of the Gospel as revealed in Romans (see Lord's Day 23)

- it does that by speaking directly to unassured believers

3. Why do young believers often struggle with assurance of faith?

a. first because of *magnitude* of Gospel treasure

b. secondly because of a misunderstanding of salvation

B. To assure His believing people, Jesus instituted sacraments

II. THE PICTURE OF HOLY BAPTISM IS TO DISPLAY SALVATION

A. Jesus instituted Baptism to *picture what happens when we believe in Him*

1. The 'outward event' pictures the spiritual event upon faith in Jesus

a. what happens when we apply water to a dirty body?

b. what happens to our dirty soul when we embrace Jesus by faith?

2. But what about my remaining sinful heart I struggle with every day?
 - a. consider the promises in Acts 2:21 & 28; John 7:38a
 - b. How precious & indispensable is the work of Holy Spirit!

Close: Does Baptism have any message for unsaved?

1. Yes: Baptism is not only a *confirmation of salvation to believers*
 1. sign/seal of baptism is also *proclamation & certification of the Gospel*
 2. sign/seal of baptism on you *is to reassure you that you're welcome*
2. What shall you say when one day you stand before God *unwashed – unrenewed ...* while the Savior-now-Judge will point at forehead

Finally: *How precious is Holy Baptism and what a beautiful confirmation!*

- A. Baptism isn't only a *confirmation to believers!*
 1. In baptism God also *visually proclaims & certifies Gospel*
- B. Seek God's assuring grace *in the use of the ordinary means!*