

Baptism: by faith, for the fight, and with a foretaste
2/21/21, GCC, Morning Worship

Introduction: Baptism as a stone of remembrance (1 Sam 7:12)

- I. A Sign by Faith
 - A. What does this mean?
 1. A sign of fellowship and union with *the whole* Christ
 2. A sign of forgiveness of sins
 3. A commitment to walk in newness of life (1 Peter 3:21)
 - B. Baptism is a sacrament *via* faith
 1. Baptism is an *external* sign of an *inward* reality (2LBC 30.5; Matt 26:28; Tit. 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21)
 - C. A Tale of Two baptisms: the Eunuch and the Magician
 1. The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40)—**Entering the Waters for the Right Reasons**
 2. Simon the Magician (Acts 8:9–25)—**Entering the Waters for the Wrong Reasons**
 - D. Baptism represents the judgment from which we’ve been saved, but only through faith (Rom 6:3)
 1. The motif of judgment and death with the ark (1 Peter 3:20), Israel at Red the Sea (Exod 15:1), and Jonah in the depth of the sea (Jonah 2)
 2. **“Trial by ordeal”**
 3. In absence of faith, baptism is a sign of judgment and death
- II. A Shield for the Fight: the ongoing testimony of baptism
 - A. Grace is given in the event and the remembrance of the event through faith
 - B. Baptism reminds me of my **separation** from the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17)
 - C. Baptism reminds me that I am **constantly killing** sin in my life
 1. **“Jesus and No Quarter!”**
 - D. Baptism reminds me that I am an **aroma** of life to some and death to others (2 Cor 2:14–15)
- III. Sealed with a Foretaste (of the eschaton)
How is baptism a foretaste of the eschaton (i.e., the New Heavens and the New Earth)?
 - A. The ark
 - B. Rising to new Life
 - C. In the NH and NE, the sea will be no more (Rev 21:1)
 - D. Conquering the Beast (Rev 15:2–3)
 - E. Trial by ordeal for Satan (Rev 20:10)
 - F. Trial by ordeal for death and hades (Rev 20:14)

Questions for Application and Discussion:

1. How is baptism a sign of our union with Christ?
2. What does it mean that baptism signifies our union with the *whole* Christ?
3. Baptism is an *external* sign of an *inward* reality.
 - a. How does 1 Peter 3:21 confirm this?
 - b. What implications does this have for the question “Who should be baptized?”
4. What does it mean that the sign and the thing signified are closely related (e.g., Matt 26:28; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21)?
5. If baptism is a sign of a Christian’s movement from “death to life” through faith, then of what is it a sign *without faith*?
6. Discuss some ways in which we can use our baptism in our fight against sin and for joy?
7. Discuss some ways in which baptism is a foretaste of the New Heavens and the New Earth?