

What is Baptism Saying to the World?

Luke 10:3; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-26-17

How should my baptism prepare me for such a command as we find in Luke 10:3?

Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. – Luke 10:3

... and don't forget your baptism! What does baptism have to do with this? In order to make this connection, we need to answer the question: What is baptism saying to the world?

The Meaning of Baptism

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. – Acts 8:12-13

It is important that we understand what this ordinance means. It is not a way of earning favor with God. The Bible makes it clear that sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone, without any dependence on good works, including things like baptism. So what is it then?

Baptism is a beautiful picture of what Christ has done for us and what He has done in us.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Baptism is an act of obedience.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20

Baptism is a proclamation of repentance.

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. – Acts 2:37-38

In baptism, we are agreeing with God about our sin and what it deserves. That we have sinned against God and deserve His just wrath. That we cannot erase our guilt or do anything to make up for our sin or earn our salvation.

Baptism is a proclamation of faith.

He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. – Mark 16:16

In baptism, we are saying that we believe that Jesus is an able and willing Savior for us.

- That Jesus is fully God and fully Man.
- That Jesus lived the life we could never live (perfect love to God and man).
- That Jesus died the death that we deserve to die (on the cross).
- That Jesus rose from the dead as the only Lord and Savior.
- That Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to enable people to believe and to live for Him.
- That Jesus rules over all things for the glory of God and the good of His people.
- That Jesus will return one day to judge all men and to bring in the kingdom of God in all its glory.
- That God offers the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life through faith alone in Jesus.
- That God calls us to turn from sin and to trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Baptism is a plea for mercy.

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, - 1 Peter 3:21

In baptism, we are asking God for mercy because of Jesus and His cross alone. We are calling on God in the name of Jesus for mercy, for the forgiveness of our sins and reconciliation to God.

Baptism is a presentation of our lives to God.

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. – Romans 6:3-4

In baptism, we are presenting our lives to God to do His will according to His Word with His people. We are dying to our old life and seeking to live a new life of trust and obedience to God. – Romans 10:8-13. In the early church, at their baptism, believers expressed their faith in Jesus and their commitment to trust and obey by the simple but profound confession, ‘Jesus is Lord!’ This baptism also points to laying down our lives and suffering for Christ’s sake. - Mark 10:35-45; Romans 8:36; Luke 12:50; Philippians 1:29-30