

I. John's baptism: submitting to Israel's God

- A. What is baptism?
- B. Did John invent baptism?
- C. Why did people go to John to get baptized? (Jeremiah 1:1-3; Ezekiel 1:1-3; Hosea 1:1; Micah 1:1; etc.; Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 4:5-6)

II. John's message: living out repentance

- A. An unexpected greeting: "You bunch of snakes!"
- B. Repentance: heart and life
 - i. repentance: changing your attitude toward specific sins
 - ii. life evidences heart-commitment (1 John 2:3; 5:2; John 13:35; Luke 13:27)
- C. Bearing fruit
- D. The Lord is coming

III. John's reception: Herod and Jesus

- A. Two kings, two kingdoms
- B. Herod's reaction to John
- C. Jesus' reaction to John
 - i. submits himself to the rule of God
 - ii. "born of a woman, born under the Law"
 - iii. baptism becomes anointing
 - iv. a *messianic* word from the Father
 - v. the Holy Spirit – the power by whom Jesus will live, obey, speak, minister

IV. Be baptized and repent!

- A. The greatest figures in the history of faith point beyond themselves to Jesus.
- B. A godly lineage is something to be thankful for.
- C. "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38) – the two go together
- D. Reflection and the conscience
 - i. your life is a series of considerations and decisions
 - ii. your habits are formed by the decisions you make
 - iii. biblically, the conscience is the "room" in which you weigh your options and make decisions about what you are going to think about, speak, and do
 - iv. Do you do this? Do you spend time reflecting on what you ought to do next?
 - v. periodic reflection, constant reflection (or else you will wind up as frustrated as ever!)
- E. Reflection and repentance
- F. The fruit of Christian reflection (1 John 3:21)
- G. The object of Christian reflection: Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:19)