

Theme: Water baptism is the sign and seal of our union with Christ, a means of grace to provide strength in our struggle against sin, and the medium through which we testify of our faith in Christ and membership in the church.

## **I. Intro – Much Ado About Nothing?**

- A. Teaching for 6 weeks or so on baptism
- B. Much ado about nothing?
- C. Sometimes reaction against baptismal regeneration
- D. We will deal with what baptism does NOT do next week
- E. However, baptism is something important!
- F. Sacrament - definition - reminder

## **II. Sign & Seal of Our Union With Christ**

- A. Believers union with Christ
  - 1. Into Christ, death, with, union (Rom 6:3-7)
  - 2. In Christ, in Him, with Him, with Christ (Col 2:9-15)
  - 3. Vital union between believers and Christ!
- B. Baptism intimately connected with this union
  - 1. Baptized into death, buried with Him (Rom 6:3-4)
  - 2. Buried with Him in baptism (Col 2:11-12)
  - 3. Baptism is sign and seal of this union
- C. Elements of union with Christ signified in baptism
  - 1. Cleansing/purification from sin (Acts 22:16; Tit 3:5)

- 2. Death and resurrection (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:11-12)

## **III. Means of Grace in Struggle Against Sin**

- A. Baptism and freedom from sin's power
  - 1. Dead to sin; buried, raised to new life (Rom 6:1-4)
  - 2. Sinful nature circumcised; buried, raised (Col 2:11-12)
- B. Baptism sign, seal and means of grace against sin
  - 1. Sign and seal of freedom from sin given in Christ
  - 2. Means of grace - actually helps in struggle
  - 3. Old man killed, cut off, buried - don't leave Him
  - 4. Water Grave
  - 5. Water baptism gives grace to believers in struggle against sin

## **IV. Our Public Testimony**

- A. Baptism proclaims we belong to Christ (Mt 28:19-20)
  - 1. Baptized in/into His Name - we take His Name
  - 2. Public testimony that we belong to Christ
- B. Proclaims unity with the church (Eph 4:3-6)
  - 1. Church is One - all receive baptism
  - 2. United with Christ - and one another

## **V. Applying the Word**

- A. Have you been water baptized?

1. It is not much ado about nothing!
2. The sin and seal of our union with Christ!
3. An important means of grace in struggle against sin
4. Important public testimony of discipleship & unity
5. Do you believe in Christ? Have you been baptized?
6. If not - talk with me!

B. Do we see our union with Christ?

1. We are one with Him!
2. His death, burial and resurrection are ours!
3. We have been baptized into Him!
4. He is our life - now and forever!

C. Are we living as those united with Christ?

1. Are we living in obedience to Him - or sin?
2. Are we drawing upon Him to struggle against sin?
3. Are we walking in unity with the church?
4. Do we see unity with Him is unity with His people?
5. Lets walk out our union with Christ!

## The Benefits of Baptism

Romans 6:1-7

Colossians 2:9-15

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Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

A sacrament is a special symbol given by God that, when received in faith, serves as a sign and seal of His promises to us, functions as a means of grace to strengthen us, and through which we testify of our faith in Him and His promises.

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.  
Colossians 2:11-12

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.  
Acts 22:16

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
Titus 3:5

In my house there's been a mercy killing.  
The man I used to be has been crucified.  
And the death of this man was the final way of revealing,  
In the spiritual way to live, I had to die.  
Now if I let that dead man linger in me,  
I might get a little idle in my way.  
So, I'm going down to the celebration river,  
And take this dead man down to a water grave.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."  
Matthew 28:19-20

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.  
4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.  
Ephesians 4:3-6