

Theme: Christ commands His followers to be baptized in water as the sacramental sign and seal of our covenantal union with Him.

## **I. Importance of Covenant Signs & Ceremonies**

- A. We mark off important events with ceremonies
- B. Wedding, oath of office, ordination
- C. Covenants have always had sign - rites
- D. Sacraments are covenants signs & rites
- E. Closely related to why I should be baptized
- F. Review - defining sacraments (

## **II. Christ Commands Us To Be Baptized**

- A. The command of Christ (Matt 28:19-20)
  - 1. Commanded to make disciples (v19)
  - 2. Two parts - baptize and teach (vv19-20)
  - 3. Both are essential to discipleship
- B. Apostolic practice
  - 1. Acts 2:36-41; 8:12; 8:36,38; 9:18; 10:47-48
  - 2. Acts 16:14-15; 16:30-33; 18:8; 19:5
- C. Apostolic teaching
  - 1. Will not take time to turn - but here are texts
  - 2. Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12
  - 3. Heb 6:2; 1 Pe 3:21

- 4. Assumed believers baptized, importance

## **III. Baptism: Sacramental Sign of the Covenant**

- A. Disciples: covenantal followers of Christ (vv19-20)
- B. Covenants have signs to ratify & renew covenant
  - 1. True of oath of office, wedding, etc.
  - 2. Noah - rainbow (Gen 9:12-13, 16)
  - 3. Old Covenant: circumcision & Passover
    - a. Initiation - circumcision (Gen 17:9-14)
    - b. Renewal - Passover (Ex 12:14; Num 9:13)
    - c. Initiation, then renewal (Exo 12:48-49)
- C. New Covenant signs - baptism & Communion
  - 1. Baptism fulfills circumcision (Col 2:11-12)
  - 2. Communion fulfills Passover
    - a. Last Supper was Passover meal!
    - b. 1 Cor 5:7-8 - Christ Our Passover Lamb
- D. Baptism - initial sign we are covenant followers
  - 1. This is why it is half of great commission
  - 2. Why Apostles practiced and taught it so much
  - 3. Why Luke so emphasizes it in Acts
  - 4. Baptism and justification

- a. Justified by faith alone - not baptism
- b. Yet unbaptized Christian not NT idea

#### **IV. Applying the Word**

##### **A. Do we see the importance of baptism?**

- 1. Not a meaningless, optional ceremony
- 2. Commanded by Christ for all disciples
- 3. Baptism brings persecution in many cultures
- 4. Our covenant sign and symbol of discipleship
- 5. Biblical method to proclaim we are Christ's
- 6. Do not give in to our anti-covenantal age

##### **B. Have you been baptized in water?**

- 1. This is Christ's command for all believers
- 2. Do you believe in Christ? COMe to Him!
- 3. Does not justify - but why disobey clear command?
- 4. I urge you to be water baptized as believer
- 5. I have not persistently urged this as I should have
- 6. I will continue this plea in coming weeks

##### **C. Lords Supper - Covenant Renewal**

- 1. In this we remember Christ's death for us
- 2. In this we profess again we are His covenant people

- 3. In this we receive strength for covenant obedience

#### **Why Should I Be Baptized in Water?**

Matthew 28:19-20  
Acts 2:36-41  
March 14, 2010  
Communion  
Genesis 12:2-3

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.

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:36-41

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36-38

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, Acts 9:18

"Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. Acts 10:47-48

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. Acts 16:14-15

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:30-33

Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 19:5

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:12-13  
Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. Genesis 9:16

Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. 10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." Genesis 17:9-14

This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance. Ex 12:14

But if a man who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, that person must be cut off from his people because he did not present the LORD's offering at the appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin. Numbers 9:13

An alien living among you who wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat of it. 49 The same law applies to the native-born and to the alien living among you. 12:48-49

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, 12 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. Col 2:11-12

Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. 1Co 5:7-8