

Theme: Water baptism is the initial act of an obedient faith response to the Gospel, the beginning of a life of obedience to God.

I. Intro - Why Water Baptism?

- A. We will have a water baptism in a few minutes
- B. This seems crazy - put someone under water!
- C. Is this just some outmoded ritual - does it matter?
- D. Why does the church do this?
- E. Is this really something important for believers today?

II. The Gospel Call

- A. God's Law and Gospel confront us with our sin
Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36
 - 1. The conclusion of Peter's sermon on Pentecost Day
 - 2. "You crucified Jesus"
 - a. Some of the people had physically crucified Jesus
 - b. Many had not but their sins had led to His crucifixion
 - c. Rembrandt - Raising the Cross - he paints himself doing it!
 - d. We are all guilty of the death of Christ - our sins
- B. Christ is Lord of all
Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus**, whom you crucified, both **Lord** and Christ. Acts 2:36
 - 1. Jesus was raised from the dead and is Lord of all

- 2. This could be scary news - we killed him, He is alive, and He rules over us!

C. Jesus is Messiah and Savior

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus**, whom you crucified, both Lord and **Christ**. Acts 2:36

- 1. Jesus is also the Christ - Messiah
- 2. This means He is Savior - and all is not lost
- 3. Perhaps there is a way of forgiveness!

III. Responding to the Gospel Call

- A. The cry for salvation
When the people heard this, **they were cut to the heart** and said to Peter and the other apostles, "**Brothers, what shall we do?**" Acts 2:37
 - 1. They are cut to the heart by their sin and need for salvation
 - 2. They do not make excuses - they own their sin
 - 3. They do not whistle in the dark - they ask what they must do
 - 4. The response to God's law, our sin, and the Gospel call is to admit our sin and cry out for God's mercy
- B. The call - repent
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." Acts 2:38
 - 1. The first response to seeing our sin and need for salvation is to repent and believe the Gospel.

2. This is the same message Jesus Himself preached After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news of God.** ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “**The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!**” Mark 1:14–15

- a. Jesus is preaching the good news - the Gospel
- b. The Gospel includes Kingdom - God rules over all
- c. The call - repent and believe the Gospel

3. The first response to the Gospel is always repent and believe the good news. Anything else is salvation by works - and is no Gospel at all.

C. Be baptized - the initial act of obedient faith

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. Acts 2:38

1. Baptism follows and flows our repentance

- a. Notice order - it is never “Be baptized and repent”
- b. We are never told ‘be baptized - & then believe later’
- c. Water baptism is not what brings us into relationship with God - it is the act of an obedient faith that has already made us children of God

2. Baptism is normal response of those who believe

- a. Not just repent - but repent and be baptized
- b. He stresses “every one of you” - all who believe should be baptized
- c. Everyone who believed that day was baptized

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41

3. Baptism is a public declaration of union with Christ 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. Acts 2:38

- a. We are baptized in the name of Jesus to show our unity with Him
- b. Baptism is a public declaration that we are disciples of Christ - and no longer His enemies
- c. Baptism - sins forgiven through Christ

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. Acts 2:38

- 1. Baptism does not confer forgiveness - Christ does
- 2. Baptism is a public sign our sins are forgiven in Christ
- 3. Baptism is a visible display of the Gospel - our sins are forgiven as we are united with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

4. Baptism is the expected response of everyone responding to God’s call

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.**” Acts 2:38–39

- a. This was not just for that time and place

- b. All of this applies to everyone who God in His grace calls to salvation
- c. Baptism is the way new obedient disciples express their faith in all times, places, and cultures

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Have you heard and responded to the Gospel call?
 - 1. We are all guilty of sin - breaking God's Law
 - 2. We are all guilty of the death of Jesus - He died because of our sins
 - 3. Jesus is raised - and Lord over all things
 - 4. Jesus will judge everyone - including you & me
 - 5. Good News - He offers forgiveness if we believe
 - 6. Has this message cut you to the heart?
 - 7. Have you repented of your sin and believed the Good News?
 - 8. I urge you - repent & believe the Good News today!
- B. Have you been baptized?
 - 1. Everyone who believes should then be baptized
 - 2. If you believe - have you been baptized?
 - 3. Parents - have your believing children been baptized? This is essential part of discipleship!
 - 4. If not - why not? See me and be baptized!
- C. Water baptism - Wyatt Berg

Water Baptism - The Initial Act of Obedient Faith

Acts 2:36-41
 January 29, 2017
 Wyatt Berg Baptism
 Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Water baptism; discipleship; obedience

The Lord bless you and keep you;²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” ’ Numbers 6:24–26

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
³⁷When 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.”
⁴⁰With 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