

Obedience in Baptism
2018-11-11

John 1:32-34

John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Story...When Can I Get Advertised? --baptism is advertising you're a Christian
Identity of Jesus as Messiah revealed to John the Baptist at Lord's unique baptism.

- unique: not symbolize repentance. John 1:33, Matthew 3:13-17, 1 John 3:5
- Public recognition by God/forerunner: Jesus prophesied as the One Jews waiting for.
 - Triune God revealed before all humanity.
- Showed Jesus identified with sinners and He provides perfect righteousness required by law to all who come to Him by faith. 2 Corinthians 5:21, Piper quote
- Bore witness of Jesus' approval of John the Baptist's baptism of repentance.
 - Baptism, not "altar call" universally public way of taking a Christian stand in New Testament. Acts 2:38

Greek *baptismos* = to dip, immerse, plunge something underneath water.

- secular use....dipping cloth in dye in order to color cloth.
- New Testament baptism by immersion was outward sign of inward change.
- Not continuation/replace of circumcision. Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Romans 2:25-29
 - Circumcision not limited to only those with genuine saving faith, whose hearts circumcised spiritually.

New Testament baptism by immersion sign: born again, cleansed from sin, beginning Christian life.

- Immersion celebrates Christian's union with Jesus Christ in his death, burial...symbolizes believer's death to sin and self. Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12, 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Emerging pic of Christian's union with Jesus Christ in His resurrection and Christian newness of life.
 - Baptism by sprinkling just doesn't portray these truths as vividly.

'believers' baptism New Testament pattern: faith in Jesus Christ 1st> then baptism. Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:44

- Reason LEFC not baptize infants.....reverses New Testament biblical pattern. Acts 2:38
 - Infants not capable of exercise faith/repentance for themselves.
- Instead LEFC has 'dedications' of infants/young children.
 - Similar to Bible dedications. 1 Samuel 1:11, Luke 2:22

Baptism in no way saves nor is necessary to somehow complete salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10 & 11:6, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41

- However if saved should be baptized in obedience to scripture.
 - We know of no unbaptized New Testament believers....except thief on

cross due to circumstances. Luke 23:43

- If baptized as infant, must be baptized after become Christian.

God's Word commands believers to be baptized but Scripture does not specify any restrictions on where/who can perform a baptism.

- Exact age for baptism varies from person to person,
 - Be sure person being baptized is Christian and understands what they doing.
 - Contact me if desire to get advertised.....baptized.

Baptism is a "means of grace," the Holy Spirit uses to bring blessing to people.

- your testimony might build up faith of other believers watching your baptism.
- We receive joy from our public profession of faith
 - Way to confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord.
 - It's "stake in ground" when future doubt/enemy comes.