The Role Of Baptism In God's Plan

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INTRODUCTION

- We approach the Word of God differently than most people, and that is probably most clearly evidenced in what we teach on the subject of baptism.
- It is an appeal to God for a clean conscience. It is about inward cleansing.
- While baptism is an activity that we have to do in order to be saved, it is no more a work. It does not diminish God's work in salvation any more than faith and repentance.

1 The One Baptism Is Not Holy Spirit Baptism

Ephesians 4:5; Acts 8:12–39; Acts 10:44–48

- A common error is that the baptism of the New Testament that saves is actually not baptism in water in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, but it is Holy Spirit baptism.
- They believed and were baptized, and it was several days later, before any miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred.
- Here is water. What prevents me from being baptized?
- Whatever happened with the Holy Spirit a few seconds ago did not change the fact that Cornelius still had to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

2 Improper Subjects and Mode of Baptism

Romans 6

- The Bible doesn't talk about in any way, shape, form, or fashion the baptizing of infants.
- The mode in the New Testament is always immersion in likeness of Jesus' death and his burial.
- It's a submerging in water. It's not a little dab of water, a little sprinkling and pouring.

3 Baptism Is Essential, Not an Afterthought

Romans 10:17

- Here's a really dangerous one that's really prevalent in our times, and that is that baptism is a good thing, but it's not really essential in the salvation process.
- A baptism that appeals to God's promises in His Word teaches us that baptism is for the remission of sins. It's not an afterthought in the process.
- It's not just a good work that people do, but it is essential unto salvation.
- But were you baptized by faith? The faith that comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

4 The Role of Baptism Is Not Decided by Us

John 8:32

- The role of baptism is not decided by what I would like to believe. It is not decided by what I am comfortable with.
- It is not decided by what my family believes. It is not decided by what decent and respectable people believe.
- Only what I say or we say carries any weight, is if it's consistent with what the Word of God says.
- We've got to make sure that it's his plan and not ours.

5 Things Baptism Cannot Do

1 Thessalonians 1; Romans 6:17; Galatians 5:4

- Baptism cannot change the heart. You can get the act right, but it does not stand in the place of changing your heart.
- Baptism does not necessarily change your life. You've got again be committed to the Lord.
- Doesn't need to be baptized again, but now that he's in Christ, he must pray that the thought of his heart might be forgiven him.
- Baptism does not ensure eternal life. We read of those who have fallen from grace, Galatians chapter 5 and verse 4.

6 The Role Baptism Plays: It Places Us in Christ

Romans 6:3–5; Hebrews 10:22; 1 Corinthians 12:13

- How significant is it? It places us in Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- This is the step that identifies us ultimately with Christ, where our sins are washed away as we're baptized into his death.
- Our bodies washed with pure water, the Hebrew writer says in Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 22.
- For by one Spirit you were baptized into one body. 1 Corinthians 12 and verse 13.

THE CHALLENGE

Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life. Make that your priority. Base your hope and confidence not in men and not in churches, not in me. But in what this book says.

MY NOTES