

The Three Confessions and Four Promises of Baptism

Thursday, June 07, 2012

6:05 PM

1. We join together this evening to celebrate what is, in reality, one of the most joyous events possible - a baptism of a follower of Christ
 - a. So, in deciding what I would speak on for a few minutes this evening, I decided that I wanted to meditate on the realities of baptism for a few minutes
 - i. Especially, what does the baptism we are about to witness mean, what is the point of this?
 - b. As I look into Scripture, I see two overlapping meanings at work
 - i. Baptism serves as a confession from the one being baptized to Christ and any witnesses present of the reality of their faith
 - ii. Baptisms serves as a promise from Christ to the one being baptized of the benefits of salvation
 - iii. So, this evening I want to consider the 3 Confessions and the 4 Promises of Baptism

2. The Three Confessions of Baptism
 - a. To represent the believer's confession of repentance of sin
 - i. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, "**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.
 - ii. See also - Matthew 3:6, Mark 1:5, Acts 19:4
 - iii. Why is this the first confession made in baptism?
 - 1) To enter the waters of baptism, one must agree that he/she needs washed and desire to be washed - this is the essence of repentance
 - 2) This is the first necessary step to coming to Christ for salvation
 - 3) To come to Christ for salvation, one must acknowledge sin and repent of it
 - 4) Acts 17:30 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent
 - b. To represent the believer's confession of trust and reliance on Christ for salvation
 - i. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, "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.
 - ii. See also - Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, 36, 38, Acts 9:18, Acts 10:48, Acts 16:15, 33, Acts 18:8
 - iii. Why is the second confession made in baptism?
 - 1) In entering the water's of baptism, one confesses that they want to be joined to Christ
 - 2) The one being baptized will be immersed in the waters as a symbol of being immersed in Christ
 - 3) This is the second necessary step to coming to Christ for salvation
 - 4) To come to Christ for salvation, one must come **to Christ** and only to Christ for salvation
 - 5) Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 - c. To represent the believer's confession of submission to Christ's lordship
 - i. Matthew 28:18-20 - "**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - ii. Why is this the third confession made in baptism?
 - 1) The command to baptize is wrapped up in the assertion of Christ's authority - His lordship
 - 2) The one coming to be baptized comes to make a covenant as a vassal to a king
 - 3) To make the covenant, one must recognize and agree to the king's lordship
 - 4) By entering the water, one confesses that Christ is Lord
 - 5) Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

3. The Four Promises of Baptism
 - a. To represent Christ's promise of forgiveness of sin and salvation
 - i. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, "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.
 - ii. See also - Acts 22:16, I Corinthians 6:11, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:22

- iii. Why does baptism represent forgiveness of sin?
 - 1) Baptism is washing in water, in fact, it is often called that - it represents the living water, Christ, washing away the filthiness of sin
 - 2) Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized **and wash away your sins**, calling on his name.
- b. To represent Christ's promise of union with Him in His death, burial and resurrection
 - i. Romans 6:3-5 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
 - ii. See also - Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:11-14
 - iii. Why does baptism represent union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection?
 - 1) The very act of immersing one in water and being drawn back out images death and resurrection
 - 2) The one receiving baptism is symbolically buried in water and is symbolically resurrected to join with Christ
- c. To represent Christ's promise of entrance into the His body
 - i. I Corinthians 12:13 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body---Jews or Greeks, slaves or free---and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
 - ii. See also - Ephesians 4:5
 - iii. Why does baptism represent entrance into the body of Christ?
 - 1) Baptism is the great equalizer of the church - everyone who enters the church must make the confessions of baptism and be baptized into the same Christ
 - 2) If we are joined to Christ then we are joined to everyone else who is joined to Christ
- d. To represent Christ's promise of pouring out of the Spirit
 - i. Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, "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.**
 - ii. See also - Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Acts 1:5, Acts 10:47, Acts 11:16, Acts 19:1-7
 - iii. Why does baptism represent the pouring out of the Spirit?
 - 1) The Spirit is also often represented by living water
 - 2) John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - 3) So, by being immersed in water, the one being baptized is being immersed into the promise of the Spirit

4. Conclusion

- a. Address Bethany
 - i. In baptism today, you are confessing repentance of your sins, reliance on Christ for salvation and submission to Christ's lordship
 - ii. In return, in baptism today, Christ is promising you forgiveness of sin, union with Him, entrance into His body, and the gift of His Spirit
- b. Address believers
 - i. As we witness Bethany's baptism we should ponder anew these truths
 - ii. We should see the glorious truths being evidenced in Bethany's life - God mercifully granting salvation to His chosen people
 - iii. We should consider our own baptism where we made these same confessions and received these same promises - and we should make sure we are still living in those confessions and by those promises
- c. Address unbelievers
 - i. If you are here and not in Christ, then witness this baptism this evening and consider the claims and the promises of Christ
 - ii. This evening, you are not only going to hear the gospel, but you are going to see the gospel in baptism
 - iii. Do not leave this place without meditating on these truths, Christ promises salvation and blessing to the one who repents and believes