

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

Sunday Sermon

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I. INTRODUCTION:

- a. The Occasion (In light of the baptisms being performed today)
- b. The Understanding of Baptism
 - i. The Place for Physical
 - ii. The Priority of Spiritual
- c. Preview
 - i. Understanding Baptism
 - ii. Understanding the Significance of Physical/ Spirit Baptism
 - iii. Understanding the Implications of Baptism to Present Tense Salvation

II. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- a. By Definition
 - i. Thayer's Greek Lexicon¹
 - ii. CDJ
 - 1. Transliteration of the Greek word
 - 2. To be completely immersed in a thing

¹ 949 βάπτισμα

βάπτισμα, βαπτίσματος, τό (βαπτίζω), a word peculiar to N. T. and ecclesiastical writings, *immersion*, *submersion*;

1. used tropically of calamities and afflictions with which one is quite overwhelmed: Matt. 20:22f Rec.; Mark 10:38f; Luke 12:50 (see βαπτίζω, I. 3).

2. of John's baptism, that purificatory rite by which men on confessing their sins were bound to a spiritual reformation, obtained the pardon of their past sins and became qualified for the benefits of the Messiah's kingdom soon to be set up: Matt. 3:7; 21:25; Mark 11:30; Luke 7:29; 20:4; Acts 1:22; 10:37; 18:25; (19:3); βάπτισμα μετανοίας, binding to repentance (Winer's Grammar, 188 (177)), Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 13:24; 19:4.

3. of Christian baptism; this, according to the view of the apostles, is a rite of sacred immersion, commanded by Christ, by which men confessing their sins and professing their faith in Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit unto a new life, come into the fellowship of Christ and the church (1 Cor. 12:13), and are made partakers of eternal salvation; (but see article *Baptism* in BB. DD., McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia, Schaff-Herzog): Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12 (L marginal reading Tr βαπτισμῶ which see); 1 Pet. 3:21; εἰς τὸν θάνατον Rom. 6:4 (see βαπτίζω, II. b. aa. at the end). (Trench, sec. xcix.)*

- b. The Types of Baptism
 - i. Spiritual Baptism
 - 1. Accomplished by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. The act of taking an individual believer in the spirit and immersing him/her in the work of Christ
 - 3. The Believer is completely identified in the mind of the Father with the work that the Son accomplishes
 - ii. Physical Baptism
 - 1. For ceremonial cleansing (In the Old Testament)
 - 2. For public acknowledging of the spiritual act

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

- a. Identifies the Believer with Christ, Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:27
 - i. The Believer is Baptized into Christ, Rom. 6:3, 4
 - 1. Removal from the position in the world (cf. Eph. 2:1)
 - 2. Placement into Christ
 - 3. Imputed in the mind of the Father (cf. Rom. 4:23)
 - ii. Allows for Forgiveness of Sin
 - iii. Allows the Believer to Live in Resurrection
 - 1. Giving access to the life we have in Christ
 - 2. Giving access to the possessions we have through Christ
- b. Places the Believer into the Body of Christ, 1 Cor. 12:12
 - i. Results in the operation of the Spiritual gifts of the individual, vs. 1-11
 - ii. The Church is composed of Believers having been baptized into it, vs. 12
 - iii. Accomplished by the Holy Spirit, vs. 13

IV. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PHYSICAL BAPTISM

- a. Unrequired for the Believer
 - i. Does not save the Believer
 - ii. Does not activate the benefits of Spirit Baptism
- b. Personal Significance for the Individual
 - i. Identifying with the Work Accomplished
 - ii. Sharing Faith with Brethren
 - iii. Land marking Significant Point in Christian Walk
- c. Scriptural Significance
 - i. Seen as Unimportant in Comparison to Relationship with Saints, 1 Cor. 1:13ff
 - ii. The Act Carries No Significance to the Present

V. THE IMPLICATIONS OF BAPTISM IN THE PRESENT TENSE

- a. No Implications for Physical Baptism
- b. Benefits of Spirit Baptism Reverberate in the Present
 - i. Allows Access to Position in Christ
 - ii. Living in Position Provides Access to Possessions from Christ

VI. CONCLUSION: