

Sermon In Detail
December 10, 2017

He Who Believes and Is Baptized



Consider everyone in our congregation who owns a timepiece. How could we go about agreeing what is the correct time? Even if we all chose a time, how could we be assured that those in the our own town, the next town, the next county, the next state, would have the same time? We would only need to know where to find the absolute cor-



rect time. That correct time is kept at the US Naval Observatory which keeps the Coordinated Universal Time. As long as everyone sets their clocks by this time, regardless of time zones we know we will have the correct time. When it comes to things pertaining faith and obedience to God, as long as we recognize the Bible as our only source of authority, we will all find complete unity.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Mark 16:15-16 NKJV And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Luke 24:46-48 NKJV Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things.

In these three passages, which are the foundation of what is to be preached, we find a common theme. The command to preach/teach. The command of who to teach- all nations/people. What to teach- faith, repentance, baptism, and all that Christ commanded

Faith is referred to many times in the New Testament (app. 220+ times in the KJV, NKJV), but only twice in those same versions in the Old Testament. More often the word 'trust' is used in the OT, (50 times in the psalms alone). In the NT Greek, the same root word is used for faith and believe. Faith- *pistis*. Believe-*pisteuo*. There are several types of faith mentioned in the NT: Common faith-Titus 1:4, Little faith Matthew 8:26, 14:31, Strong faith Romans 4:20, Active faith James 2:18, Great faith Matthew 8:10, No faith Mark 4:40. But, in our lesson today, let's consider the faith/belief as it pertains to baptism in salvation, "***he who believes and is baptized***"- **Mark 16:16**.

Scripture reveals where faith comes.

Romans 10:17 NKJV ***So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

Paul states this after a series of logical points in the previous 4 verses, 13-16. In order for anyone to call upon the name of the LORD, they must be believe. In order to believe they must hear. In order to hear they must be taught by those who are sent. Those who are sent must preach the Word of God, the Gospel. The entirety of the Word of God is truth.

John 17:17 NKJV ***Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.***

What Did the Apostles and Early Church Teach?

Looking at the above three passages from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we see that this message is exactly what the apostles taught beginning on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. When the people in Jerusalem realized what they had done and believed the message that Peter had spoken, notice that Peter tells them exactly what Christ commanded them. We find they believed, and were commanded to repent and be baptized.

Acts 2:38 NKJV Then Peter said to them, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

You will find in the accounts of conversions in the Book of Acts that a common thread will occur. Preaching, faith/believing, and baptism.

Acts 8:12-13 NKJV But when they **believed** Philip as he **preached** the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were **baptized**. 13 Then Simon himself also **believed**; and when he was **baptized** he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. (*emphasis mine*)

Acts 8:35-39 NKJV Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, **preached** Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being **baptized**?" 37 Then Philip said, "**If you believe** with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "**I believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **baptized** him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. (*emphasis mine*)

There is an accompanying chart that will further show the relationship of preaching, belief, and baptism in the Book of Acts so that you can see for yourself that this was the message consistently taught in the first century.

But, for a moment, consider what took place with Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. The Eunuch takes note of a body of water as they pass and asks why he cannot be baptized. How would he have known about baptism if Philip had not taught him? Further, the caravan would certainly have carried their own water for the journey, so that if Philip had taught about dipping or sprinkling he would have simply asked to have himself sprinkled or water poured over him. We find that they went down into the water and came out of the water, indicating that the baptism was indeed immersion, completely going under the water. This is consistent with what Paul teaches us in Romans 6. One is not buried in a cup of water nor is death reenacted by sprinkling.

Romans 6:3-6 NKJV Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death**? 4 Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (*emphasis mine*)

Paul again affirms that baptism represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ in his letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 2:12-13 NKJV buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (emphasis mine)

The very act of baptism, therefore, is symbolic of not only Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, but also of our own death to sin and being raised to a new life in Christ. This cannot be accomplished by sprinkling or pouring. The very word 'baptizo' in Greek means to immerse. Why was John the Baptist baptizing in Aenon near Salim in John 3:23?

John 3:23 NKJV Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, **because there was much water there.** And they came and were baptized. (*emphasis mine*)

What Of Baptizing Infants and Children?

Faith/belief must be that which is understood by way of preaching. This is why children not of the age of understanding are not subject to the requirements of salvation. Babies cannot understand and therefore cannot have the faith required for salvation. They are 'safe' not saved. Regardless of what some traditions might teach, we DO NOT inherit Adam's sin from the Garden of Eden. The idea of 'total depravity' is foreign to Scripture. We suffer the consequences of that sin, ie. death, but each person answers only for THEIR OWN SINS.

Ezekiel 18:20 NKJV The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Jeremiah 31:30 NKJV But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

Even Jesus taught of the innocence of children, and said this is what we must become.

Mark 10:14 NKJV But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; **for of such is the kingdom of God.** (emphasis mine)

Matthew 18:3-4 NKJV and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **unless you are converted and become as little children,** you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (emphasis mine)

Paul teaches the same concept of the innocence of children.

1 Corinthians 14:20 NKJV Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

This is certainly consistent even in the Old Testament.

Numbers 14:29,31 NKJV The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, **from twenty years old and above.** 31 **But your little ones,** whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. (emphasis mine)

There comes a time when a child will choose between evil and good.

Isaiah 7:15-16 NKJV Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For **before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good**, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. (emphasis mine)

Notwithstanding, many will point to Psalm 51:5 as a doctrine for '*inherited sin*', or '*total depravity*'.

Psalms 51:5 NKJV Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

What is David saying? David is not saying he was sinful from conception, but that into a sinful world he was born. Consider Job 31:18 in which Job uses similar language when relating his care of orphans and widows.

Job 31:18 NKJV (But from my youth I reared him as a father, And from my mother's womb I guided the widow);

Is Job saying even in his mother's womb he cared for them? Of course not! Neither is David saying he was sinful in his mother's womb. That would be completely contrary to the teachings of Scripture. If children sin from conception, which sin(s) do they commit in their mother's womb? One might well consider that Jesus was born of a woman. Was He in sin in His mother's womb?

Therefore, understanding that baptism is for the remission/forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16) it is unnecessary for babies and children who do not, or cannot, understand the need for forgiveness and the atoning sacrifice for sins by the Savior, to be baptized.

On Being Taught Wrong

You may ask, "*what is one to do if one has been taught wrong and therefore 'baptized' wrong?*" We need only to look at Scripture to see what was done in such cases in the first century.

Acts 18:24-26 NKJV Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, **though he knew only the baptism of John.** **26** So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, **they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.** (emphasis mine)

Two things of note here; Apollos only knew the baptism of John and, as a result, he was taught more accurately the way of God. We can conclude that if one has inaccurately taught about baptism then a more accurate teaching is required, whether it is the purpose or mode of baptism. Further, we find in the next passage about others whose baptism was in need of a more accurate instruction and action.

Acts 19:1-5 NKJV And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples **2** he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said to them, "**Into what then were you baptized?**" So they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they

should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** (emphasis mine)

By Faith

So, we can conclude that one can be taught wrong and therefore be in need of further instruction in the ways of salvation, and having been instructed correctly needs to obey what the Scriptures command.

The fact that there is a right way and wrong way as it pertains to worship and salvation is evident throughout Scripture. Consider the sacrifices of Cain and Abel in the Book of Genesis.

Hebrews 11:4 NKJV By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable. Why? It was not according to faith. Remember, faith comes by hearing and in the Patriarchal Age of the Bible (Genesis up to the giving of the Law in Exodus 20) the heads of the family were responsible for sacrifices and would have been taught this either directly from God or from their fathers. Cain ignored the command of God and his sacrifice was unacceptable.

We can also look at unacceptable worship under the Law.

Leviticus 10:1-3 NKJV Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.

Nadab and Abihu received specific and clear commands as to what kind of fire to use, yet they chose to offer a profane (strange- ASV, KJV, NASB) (unauthorized- NIV, ESV) fire and it was rejected by God and they were killed as a result.

Naaman is also an example of one who rejected a clear command as to what he must do. He was a leper and was told by a young Israelite captive about a prophet who could heal him. Naaman goes to the prophet Elisha and we pick up the account there:

2 Kings 5:10-14 NKJV And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' 12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

When was Naaman's leprosy cleansed, before or after he obeyed? Could Naaman have gone

back to Damascus to be healed instead of dipping in the Jordan? What if he only had dipped one time, or five times, or six times? Would he have been healed? When we are given a command we must follow the command by faith as it has been given, no more, no less.

Faith Alone?

Belief/faith alone cannot bring salvation:

James 2:19 NKJV You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Belief without action is dead:

James 2:26 NKJV For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

To hear the Word of God and not obey is not faith.

Matthew 7:21 NKJV "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

James 1:22-23 NKJV But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

What God desires of man.

John 4:23-24 NKJV But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship **in spirit and truth**." (emphasis mine)

In Conclusion

Neither the conscience nor tradition can be relied upon as a basis for salvation apart from the Word of God. The Word of God alone must be the standard by which we rely upon the knowledge of what we must do to be saved. Our conscience can only be justified through Scripture.

1 Peter 3:21 NKJV There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Traditions must be those that come from Christ and the apostle's teaching, those themselves coming from Christ.

Matthew 28:20 NKJV **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 2:42 NKJV And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 NKJV Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the **traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle**.

Traditions and doctrines of men that contradict the Word of God must be rejected.

Matthew 15:9 NKJV AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' "

Colossians 2:20-23 NKJV Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—**according to the commandments and doctrines of men?** 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

So, we conclude where we began, with the commandment given by inspiration of the HOLY SPIRIT to Mark.

Mark 16:16 NKJV He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

What About Baptism?

	Text	Teaching	Believing	Confessing	Repenting	Baptizing	Saved
	Pentacost Acts 2:14-41	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	YES	Remission of Sins vs. 38, 47
	Samaria Acts 8:5-12	YES	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	
	Simon Acts 8:13	<i>implied</i>	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	
	Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	YES	<i>implied</i>	YES	<i>implied</i>	YES	Rejoiced vs. 39
① DEATH EPH. 2:1 COL. 3:3	Saul-Paul Acts 9:1-18	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES Acts 22:16	Sins Washed Away 22:16
	Cornelius Acts 10:34-48	YES	YES	<i>implied</i>	YES	YES	
② BURIAL COL. 2:12	Lydia Acts 16:13-15	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	
	Jailer Acts 16:25-34	YES	YES	<i>implied</i>	YES	YES	Rejoiced vs. 34
	Corinthians Acts 18:8	YES	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	
③ RESURRECTION COL. 3:1-3	12 Disciples Acts 19:1-7	YES	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	<i>implied</i>	YES	
④ NEW LIFE 2. COR. 5:17							

PREACHING ⇒ FAITH ⇒ CONFESSION ⇒ REPENTANCE ⇒ BAPTISM ⇒ SALVATION
 Romans 10:14 Heb 11:6 Romans 10:10 Luke 13:3 1 Peter 3:21 2 Tim 2:10
 Romans 10:17 John 6:28-29 Matt 10:32-33 Acts 2:38 Rom 6:3-5 Matt 7:21-23