

BAPTISM: A JOYFUL ACT OF OBEDIENCE

I. Various Scriptures

A. **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)** is known as the **Great Commission**: **18** *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* **Mark 16:15-16 (ESV) echoes**: **15** *And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (The Great Commission vs The Nice Suggestion!)*

B. Here are the Great Commission particulars...

1) Jesus, God the Son, with **ALL** authority, is the One who gives us this charge...

2) *Go* means *go*. The world isn't wild about the fact Christians are called to go. Not going may appease the world but not going also means disobeying God...

3) The territory of our commission is "*all nations*" "*all the world.*" "*all creation.*" No nation, location, culture, tribe, people-group, is left out. And yes it includes your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, strangers, and enemies...

4) It involves proclaiming the Good News about Jesus Christ; making disciples (regenerated followers of our Lord); teaching what Jesus taught, i.e. His Word...

5) And it involves baptizing believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Bottom line: Jesus was baptized; He commanded us to be baptized; the Apostles commanded and practiced baptism; and the Scriptures affirm it. Baptism is indeed our focus this morning. It is most definitely a joyful act of obedience...

C. When Peter preached on Pentecost and 3,000 people were *cut to the quick*, they repented and turned to Christ. What happened next? They were all baptized! That's 250 baptisms per Apostle! Talk about some sore arms!

D. After Stephen was stoned and persecution broke out in Jerusalem, Christians fled the city. This resulted in the Gospel spreading throughout Judea and Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. *Philip the Evangelist* came upon an Ethiopian Official reading Isaiah 53 while riding in a chariot. After pointing out how Jesus was *The One* on whom Isaiah was prophesying, the Ethiopian believed in Christ. Then what happened? He immediately wanted to be baptized. And indeed He was!

E. When Paul & Silas were singing hymns after midnight in a Philippian jail, incarcerated for preaching the Good News and exorcising a demonized fortune teller, an earthquake struck and all the prison doors swung open. And just as the jailer was ready to take his own life, Paul assured him no one had escaped. The jailer fell at Paul & Silas' feet seeking to be saved. That very night the jailer and his family were baptized.

F. Preaching the Gospel across the globe has been taking place for 2,000 years and counting. Baptism has been affirming believers' professions of faith all along the way. Some of you may be remembering your own baptism and how amazing it was...

G. Baptism is a joyful act of obedience and it declares the following...

1) Baptism declares outwardly what's taken place inwardly. It's emblematic of my faith. The act doesn't save me, Jesus does. But it proclaims He has! (e.g. *Wedding vows establish the covenant, not the rings...*) Baptism's my personal passion play for all to see. Like Communion, Baptism is a sacrament we believers heartily embrace.

2) Baptism declares I am a *new creature* in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP): *17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. Baptism vividly affirms we are born anew!*

3) Baptism declares my faith and hope are in Jesus' atoning death, burial, & resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV) tells us what Jesus did: *3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...* Romans 6:4-5 (NIV) Baptism depicts this personally as we identify with what Jesus did: *4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. (Picture it: Down under the water--burial; up out of the water--resurrection.)*

4) Baptism declares my sins have been washed away. Acts 22:16 (NIV) says: *16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name. (While the blood of Jesus does the washing; Baptism depicts the reality.)*

5) Baptism declares my membership in the Body of Christ, God's family, His church. Ephesians 4:4-6 (VOICE): reminds us: *4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were all called to pursue one hope. 5 There is one Lord Jesus, one living faith, one ceremonial washing through baptism, and 6 one God--the Father over all who is above all, through all, and in all. Michael Horton puts it this way: "Baptism is not only a sacrament of our union with Christ; it is also a sacrament of our communion as the body of Christ."*

H. If you've never declared publicly your faith in Jesus Christ through Baptism, I encourage you to do so. Baptism is a joyful act of obedience instituted and ordained by Jesus. In days of old, getting baptized could get you killed. In some cultures, that's still the case! Know this: entering the waters of baptism gets heaven's attention as well as those on earth. Therefore: Repent. Believe. Confess. And be Baptized...

*** Close with the song, "Glory to the Lamb."**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **19** 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, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 16:15-16 (ESV)

15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. **16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

Romans 6:4-5 (NIV)

4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **5** If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.

Acts 22:16 (NIV)

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.

The late Dr. M.R. DeHaan on Baptism:

“In the early days of the church..., baptism was a declaration that the believer was definitely identifying himself with that group of people who were called Christians and were despised and hated. To be a Christian meant something. To identify yourself with those who were called Christians meant persecution, maybe death; it meant being ostracized from your family, shunned by friends. And the one act which was the final declaration of this identification was BAPTISM. As long as a man gathered with Christians, he was tolerated, but when once he submitted to baptism, he declared to all the world, I BELONG TO THIS DESPISED GROUP, and immediately he was persecuted, hated, and despised. In baptism, therefore, the believer entered into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. A person might be a believer and keep it strictly a

secret and thus avoid unpleasantness and suffering, but once he submitted to public baptism he had burned his bridges behind him.”

[Video Clips & Important Articles](#)

Baptism and Regeneration - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NgtbMWzJ4c>

"Been Through The Waters" by Kyle Matthews

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJVLc7h-IJ0&feature=related>

"Down To The River To Pray" - Alison Krauss

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY>

What is Baptism and How Important Is It? - John Piper (Full Sermon)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_JwUBkZpiM

[Bonus Stuff](#)

[Colossians 2:9-14 \(NLT\)](#)

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **10** So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. **11** When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision--the cutting away of your sinful nature. **12** For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. **13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

[Galatians 3:26-29 \(ESV\)](#)

26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. **27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female--for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.

[Matthew 10:32-33 \(ESV\)](#)

32 So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven, **33** but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven.

[Luke 12:8-9 \(ESV\)](#)

8 And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, **9** but the one who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

1 John 4:13-15 (ESV)

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Romans 10:8-11 (ESV)

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); **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. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"We ought to regard the sacrament of baptism with reverence. An ordinance of which the Lord Jesus Himself partook, is not to be lightly esteemed. An ordinance to which the great Head of the Church submitted, ought to be ever honorable in the eyes of professing Christians."

H.A. Ironside

"To the lover of the Lord Jesus Christ there can be nothing legal about baptism. It is simply the glad expression of a grateful heart recognizing its identity with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. Many of us look back to the moment when we were thus baptized as one of the most precious experiences we have ever known."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"A man who knows that he is saved by believing in Christ does not, when he is baptized, lift his baptism into a saving ordinance. In fact, he is the very best protester against that mistake, because he holds that he has no right to be baptized until he is saved."

Quote by Watchman Nee

"Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith."

Quote by Wayne Grudem

"Our justification from sins takes place at the point of saving faith, not at the point of water baptism, which usually occurs later. But if a person is already justified and has sins forgiven eternally at the point of saving faith, then baptism is not necessary for forgiveness of sins nor for the bestowal of new spiritual life. Baptism, then, is not necessary for salvation. But it is necessary if we are to be obedient to Christ, for He commanded baptism for all who believe in Him."

Quote by John Stott

"Baptism with water is the sign and seal of baptism with the Spirit, as much as it is of the forgiveness of sins. Water-baptism is the initiatory Christian rite, because Spirit-baptism is the initiatory Christian experience."

Os Guinness - The Truth of Christianity

"Christianity is not true because it works (pragmatism); it is not true because it feels right (subjectivism); it is not true because it's "my truth" (relativism). It is true because it is anchored in the person of Christ. The Christian faith is not true because it works; it works because it is true. It is not true because we experience it; we experience it--deeply and gloriously--because it is true. It is not simply "true for us", it is true for any who seek in order to find, because truth is true even if nobody believes it, and falsehood is false even if everybody believes it. That is why truth does not yield to opinion, fashion, numbers, office, or sincerity--it is simply true and that is the end of it."

- Os Guinness, *Time for Truth*, p.p. 79-80.

Jesus Christ vs the Goddess Ganges

Missionary to India, M.V. Varghese tells the story of encountering a weeping young mother on the banks of the Ganges River, outside the Indian city of Hardwar. The woman was inconsolable, beating her chest in anguish. Her name was Alila. Varghese bent down to console the young mother and asked her what was wrong. Through her deep sobs she said, "The problems in my home are too many and my sins are heavy on my heart, so I offered the best I have to the goddess Ganges, my first born son." Less than an hour earlier she had waded out into the river, like so many Hindu mothers do, and tossed her son to his watery death, believing the Ganges would wash their sins away. Brother Varghese's heart ached for the desperate woman. As she wept, he gently began to tell her about the love of Jesus and that through Him her sins could be forgiven. That through the blood of Jesus, atonement for sin had been accomplished on the cross. She looked at him strangely. "I have never heard that before," she replied through her tears. "Why couldn't you have come thirty minutes earlier? If you did, my child would not have had to die." - *Christianity Today*, 1993.

Pot Hole Baptism

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic. "Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she says as she shook the older boy in anger. "We were just playing 'church' mommy," he said. "And I was just baptizing him... in the name of the Father, the Son and in... the hole-he-goes." - Author Unknown