

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

INTRO: Recently, while going through some old papers, I found a copy of the first lesson I worked up & presented to the Highway 29 church in Liberty Hill, Texas. I was 19 years old and had been a Christian for less than 3 months. (Note from his transcript: “17 days later on Thanksgiving Day – I would marry Betty Mears”)

I. BAPTISM COMPARED TO FAITH & REPENTANCE, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38

- A. Faith alone is not enough, Luke 13:3
- B. “And” is a co-ordinate conjunction: joins words & phrases of equal value.
- C. Therefore whatever is accomplished by belief in Mark 16:16 is also said of baptism. Whatever is said of repentance in Acts 2:38 is also said of baptism.

II. BAPTISM IS INCLUDED IN THE NEW BIRTH, John 3:3-5. John 3:3-5, Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Titus 3:5, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

III. BAPTISM PUTS US INTO THE DEATH OF JESUS, WHERE WE CONTACT HIS BLOOD.

Rom 6:3-5, Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His

death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

- IV. BAPTISM PUTS US INTO CHRIST, Rom. 6:3.
Gal 3:26-27, For you are all sons of God thru faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- V. BAPTISM SANCTIFIES AND CLEANSSES.
Eph 5:25-26, Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.
- VI. BAPTISM SAVES.
1 Peter 3:20-21, In the days of Noah...a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 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,

Mark 16:16.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, November 5, 1962

Jonestown, TX, January 5, 1969

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 29, 2004