"Repent, and ... Be Baptized"

Intro: At the first of this month we began a topical teaching concerning the two ordinances of the church: _____________ and communion. Of these ordinances we chose to consider water baptism first for it is the new believers' initial act of faith whereby they testify that they believe in Jesus, that He is the Christ of God, and want to publicly ______________ themselves with Him, as His ________________.

A. This morning we come together that we might worship our Lord by considering the appropriate ________ for baptism, which we will follow by an examination of a few verses of Scripture that have proven difficult for some to understand and thus, have become an ________________ source for those who hold to baptismal regeneration, who teach not only that baptism is necessary to salvation but that the ________ of baptism brings salvation.

I. Should children be baptized, and if so, at __________ ________?

A. With absolute consistency ________ in the Lord has ______________ been the prerequisite to baptism. (cf. Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36-38; 16:30-33; 18:8)

B. In the Bible were only adults baptized? If one wanted to hold the position that it is only ________ believers who are to be baptized then we would ask by what Scripture they hold such a position for as much as Acts 2 & 8 speak of adults being baptized Acts 16 & 18 speak of ______________ ________ ________ ________ being baptized.

C. Upon faith and repentance baptism is to follow and that without age restriction. The question ________ “Is this one of ________?” ______ “Does this one possess ________?”

D. Where the Scripture is silent we realize that we have no absolute rule, but liberty. Since the Scripture sets no minimum age for baptism neither shall we. ________ in Jesus is the ________ prerequisite to baptism and we add nothing.

E. As the ______________ sets ______ ______ requirement for the baptism of children, believing children should be baptized as an obedient act of their God-granted faith, just as we hold for all believers of all ages.

II. Let us move along to consider Scriptural passages which some have misunderstood and in their ________ believe in baptismal regeneration (that baptism is necessary to salvation, that one remains unsaved until they are baptized being saved only upon baptism, ________ being a necessary means of ________________).

A. Mark 16:16. What is revealed in this verse is not the necessity of baptism to salvation but the necessity of faith to salvation, and that true faith will be manifested through the believer by ______________ ________ that begin with baptism. True Christian faith is followed by those works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. And the one who has believed as his ________________ reveals, as he is identified with Christ through baptism, is the one whom God has saved and will save from the eternal judgment to everlasting life.
B. Acts 2:38. When Peter said “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ...” he was saying (as we take in the context), “Turn from your sin of murdering Jesus and believe in Him. And believing with all your heart, ___________ yourself _______ ______ through baptism, identifying that He whom you crucified has forgiven you of your sin!” Peter did not teach that baptism brings the forgiveness of sin but that baptism identifies us with Jesus _______ ________________ us of our sin.

C. Acts 22:16. Water ___________ is the testimony of what took place as a result of one calling upon the name of the Lord, their sins being washed away. This verse does not teach that water baptism literally washes away sin but that baptism ___________ of the washing away of sin that takes place at salvation when one calls on the name of the Lord.

D. I Peter 3:21. This verse does not teach baptismal regeneration but that ___________ saves in so much that it ___________ that we are in Christ, the Ark of our salvation, freed from the wrath of God and ___________ and risen to newness of life, even eternal life.

1. The Bible Knowledge Commentary says that Peter clearly taught that baptism was not merely a ceremonial act of physical purification, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. Baptism is the ___________ of what has already occurred in the heart and life of one who has trusted Christ as Savior. To make the source ___ ___________ perfectly clear Peter added, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ .”

Closing: “It is worthy of remark that Jesus has made ‘baptism’ of so much importance. He did not say, indeed, that a man could not be saved without ___________, but He has strongly implied that where this is neglected ‘knowing it to be a ___________ of the Saviour,’ it endangers the salvation of the soul by calling one’s faith into question. ... Every man endangers his eternal interest by being ashamed of Christ before men.” (Albert Barnes)

At that, and with our time expired we bring this portion of our study of the ordinances to a close, coming to understand that baptism is for believers of every age, and not the means of our salvation but the ordained testimony of Christ’s ___________ toward us. As Wiersbe wrote, “There is no salvation in the waters of baptism, for salvation is by faith ___ ___________.”

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