

## WHY WOULD WE BAPTIZE?

Mark 1:9-13

Apparently many churches in America have so de-emphasized the ordinance of believer's baptism that we have completely lost the significance of it altogether. In fact, both the Lord's Supper and Baptism are being lost in many churches today. In this passage we discover some rather clear and emphatic instruction on the subject.

- I. We baptize because of the **EXAMPLE OF JESUS** (vv. 9 - 11)
  - A. Baptism was **REQUESTED BY JESUS** (v. 9a "...Jesus came...")  
Matthew 3:13 "Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John to be baptized by him."
  - B. Baptism was **PERFORMED BY JOHN** (v. 9b "...baptized by John...")
  - C. Baptism was **BY IMMERSION** (v. 9c "...in the Jordan." v. 10a "coming up out [from under] of the water.")  
(We follow Jesus' example when we are baptized!)
- II. We baptize because of the **COMMAND OF JESUS** (cf. Matthew 28:18-20)
  - A. We **GO IN THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST** (v. 18)
  - B. We **BAPTIZE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST** (v. 19)
  - C. We **TEACH THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST** (v. 20)  
(We obey Jesus' command when we are baptized!)
- III. We baptize because of the **MEANING OF BAPTISM** (cf. Romans 6:3)
  - A. Baptism is a **SYMBOL OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST** signifying His blood atonement for our sin (also pictures our death to sin and self).
  - B. Baptism is a **SYMBOL OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST** signifying His victory over sin and death (also pictures our new life in Him).  
(We picture Jesus' sacrifice and salvation when we are baptized!)

Baptism is restricted to those who have personally repented of their sin and are willing to publicly confess Him as their only Lord and Savior. This is "believers baptism."

— rrc