

Made Alive with Christ

February 19, 2017
Colossians 2:11-15

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
Pastor Mark W. Turner

Observations on Baptism & Circumcision 11-12

1. OT Circumcision related to NT Baptism
 - We are spiritually circumcised by being baptized in Christ
 - In new covenant we don't need circumcision to obtain fulness
2. Baptism is a covenant sign like circumcision
 - Circumcision (Gen 17, 12, 15) sign given to Abraham to assure
 - New Covenant Baptism sign given to assure believers in Christ
3. Baptism is about our union with Christ
 - Baptism is about showing God's work in us when we were helpless
 - Faith is not primary picture, but means, which is a gift from God ^{Eph 2:8-9}
4. Subjects of baptism like circumcision
 - Infants could not exercise faith Gen 17:12 yet Abraham obeyed
 - God's covenant sign given so we can embrace it in faith
5. Baptism shows promise of union with Christ
 - buried with Christ = died to sin (cut off from old flesh nature)
 - raised with Christ = made alive with Christ to live for Him!
 - beware of visualizing modern burial w/ this passage. Burial mostly in tombs, sarcophagi, and catacombs, later transfer to ossuaries

The Benefits of being In Christ 11-15

1. Union with Christ - "in Christ" illustrated biblically:
 - Christ=vine; believers=branches Jn 15:1-11
 - Christ=cornerstone; believers=parts of building Eph 2:19-22
 - Christ & believers = husband & wife Eph 5:22-32
 - Christ=head; believers=body Eph 4:15-16
2. Union with Christ - Forgiveness
 - because of our sin we were condemned
 - Christ canceled our record of debt
3. Union with Christ - Fellowship
 - given community (covenant) sign 2:11
 - old self buried 2:12; 3:1,3,12-+14
4. Union with Christ - Freedom
 - a ritual won't give you power
 - The sign & seal of baptism reminds you of power of Christ, you're in Him

Discuss & Apply:

- If dead sinners are unable to believe before God gives them life, how can He hold them accountable for unbelief? Why should we urge them to believe if they can't believe without God's grace?
- How is parenting a covenant child much like disciplining a non-believer? What is God's part in both?
- Study: Westminster Shorter Catechism Q94: What is baptism?
A: Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, ^{Mat 28:19} doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, ^{1 Cor 11:23} and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, ^{Gal 3:27} and our engagement to be the Lord's. ^{Rom 6:3,4}
- Study Larger Catechism Q. 167. How is our baptism to be improved by us?
A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; ^[Col 2:11-12; Rom 6:4,6,11] by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; ^[Rom 6:3-5] by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; ^[1 Cor 11:11-13; Rm 6:2-3] by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; ^{Rm 4:11-12; 1 Pt 3:21} by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; ^{Rm 6:3-5} and by endeavoring to live by faith, ^{Gal 3:26-27} to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, ^{Rm 6:22} as those that have therein given up their names to Christ, ^{Ac 2:38} and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body. ^{1 Cor 12:13,25}
- Can you properly Proclaim the Word of God (the Gospel) to someone in 30 seconds? What is your verse? Method? Practice this with others!
- Why is it important to 'rehearse the Gospel' to 'improve our Baptism'? How do some of the benefits we saw today help?

Some Great Salvation Verses:

1 Thess 5:9-10	Eph 2:4-6	John 3:36
John 3:16-17	John 6:40	1 Tim 2:3-6
1 John 5:11	1 John 5:20	Phil 3:4-11
2 Cor 5:21	Rom 3:25-26	Rom 10:9-10
1 Tim 1:15	1 Pet 2:24-25	Acts 4:12

Rescued and transformed

