

5111 June 11, 1974

" Baptism "

~~"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH"~~

Eph. 4:5-10

We spoke on the (unity) in seven ways. - *Hearer hearing church when choir entered itself remarked that the performance was fulfillment of Prophecy where Amos 8:13 says "songs as trump shall be Howlings"*

One baptism - one commentary will say that is in water. Another will say it refers to Spirit. I Cor. 12:13. It could refer to both.

Symbolically it can be baptism by the Spirit, taken out of death and added in life to the body of our Lord, thus buried and raised.

Whether by the Spirit or water there is (one) baptism. Not two, three, or ten.

Look at baptism - actually it, refers to work of the Spirit.

Lord's Supper - bread and fruit of vine symbolize.

1st BAPTISM - receives the highest honor.

Paul puts it in the company of things which unify.

Matt. 3:17 - Three persons of the Godhead present - the Son submitted, the Holy Spirit descended, the Father speaks.

Matt. 3:15 - First public utterance of Lord established the ordinance.

Matt. 28:18-20 - Last utterance he honored baptism.

2nd BAPTISM - Commanded in the (Greatest Name.)

Matt. 28:19-20 - Teach all nations - baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Reason is found - I Cor. 15:1-4 - Define the Gospel. Christ died - buried - raised - that message portrayed in the ordinance of baptism.

3rd BAPTISM - Symbolizes the (greatest doctrine.) Romans 6:3-5 - know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.

Refers to a past redemption - regeneration - we have been born anew - raised in Christ.

4th BAPTISM - Symbolizes the (greatest facts.)

Romans - it is symbol of Christians faith - he died - was buried - was raised.

Romans 4:25 - His resurrection - he was raised again for our justification.

Means: Christ was raised from the dead to declare us righteous.

Crucifix: Never be the symbol of Christian faith. It is a dead Christ on a cross.

But we have a living Christ - he was on a cross but he is gone - lives.

Gal. 2:20.

2 Cor. 5:17 - In Christ - all things new. New day - new life. Planted in the likeness of his death.

Symbolizes (greatest hope) We are going to live even though we die. We are going to be raised. We shall all be changed in a moment - if we die and are buried we shall be raised from the dead.

What if we change the ordinance? Heb. 8:5. "As Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the Tabernacle: for see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to Thee in the mount."

Moses did exactly that -- followed the pattern.

We are to follow the pattern that God gave John-The-Baptist. We are to do the same thing. Not to change the pattern, if we do, we ruin it. It is no longer baptism.

Another thing, when we break the pattern and baptize unregenerated, unconverted people we lay the church open to all kinds of heresies.

Baptizing infants, was the way they made the church synonomous with the state. At the birth of a child his name registered in a book as a citizen and he was then christened into the church. The church and state were synonomous. This changed the pattern. The church used the state to persecute those who dissented. The state burned heretics at the stake and put them in dungeons. Sometimes entire little nations wiped out by the state at the direction of the church.

5th BAPTISM - Is in keeping with the most blessed example.

2 Boys playing at keeping store - Their father stepped up to make a purchase & dropped a penny on their counter, the boys all spoke up "Dad this ain't church, it's a store." John-The-Baptist on the banks of Jordan preached, converts were baptized in the

river.

First time anyone ever saw any man take another man and wash him - John did it on the banks of the Jordan.

Committee from Sanhedrin ask - who are you? Elijah? Prophet? Messiah?

I am a voice - make straight the way of the Lord.

Jordan river - starts Mt. Hermon 12,000 feet high. Runs to Dead Sea 1,200 feet below sea level. Muddy river.

Jordan means: "Descend".

Naaman thought Jordan too muddy wanted to use Abana river in Damascus clear as crystal.

Early baptizings took place in creek or stock pond. River -

6th BAPTISM - Is in keeping with the holiest urge in our hearts.

Highest honor, commanded in the greatest name.

Whenever a man is saved, the first thing he wants to do is to be baptized.

Philip went on mission and in desert road treasurer of Ethiopia came by in

his chariot reading Isaiah 53. The Ennuch invited Philip to come up in the chariot and asked "Of whom speaketh the prophet?" Philip began at that Scripture and preached unto him Jesus. Passed a certain water -- what hinders me from being baptized? I want to be baptized. If you believe with all your heart. I believe. The chariot stopped and both went down into the water and he baptized him. Burial and resurrection. Went on his way rejoicing!

Says the new born Christian here is water - what hinders - Holy urge will be in your heart when you are saved.

W. E. Hatcher told of a distinguished woman who was converted and her husband an unbeliever went with her to the baptismal services at the river. Before the service Hatcher gave a brief sermon and gave the invitation of salvation to any interested soul. The husband of the wife, who had been sitting in the buggy stepped down and said he wanted to offer this soul to Jesus and be baptized on the spot. Dr. Hatcher, remarked he had no change of clothes, man insisted when you are converted, you must be baptized. He went down in the water and returned home in wet clothing.

The cry of the new convert is I want to be baptized.

See here is water - what hinders me from being baptized?

I have it in my soul - I have found the Lord - I want to be baptized.

That is the spirit of God - that is one baptism. That is one faith - one Lord. God bless us to follow. *Gen. Scott was overruled by Pres. Lincoln*