**September 25, 2016 “The Baptism of the Believer” Acts 2:38**

For the last several weeks, we have been studying in the light of Scripture the various ways in which the devil seeks to deceive people. We have discovered that the original deception was in the Garden of Eden where the devil approached Eve with a question: “Did God really say?” Now we have to ask ourselves whether this was a hearing test for Eve or if there was something far more sinister. The devil was really getting Eve to question the authority of God’s Word and secondly, her obedience to it. Was she and Adam, (who was with her) going to obey God or were they going to make their own decisions regardless of what God’s Word said to them?

Herein lies a great problem. One that is still plaguing the Church today. Peter answered the Pharisees and said, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). So, if we, the so-called followers of Christ, are to obey God rather than men, why is there so much confusion within the realm of so-called Christianity regarding baptism?

* The Quakers, Salvation Army, Friends Church, and others teach that Baptism was and is a Jewish ritual and no longer applicable
* Others like the Church of Christ teach baptismal regeneration which means you cannot go to heaven unless you are baptized
* The Mormons baptize for the dead
* Others teach infant baptism. Many of the Protestant churches still teach that it is necessary to enter into a covenant relationship with God
* The Catholic Church teaches that if a baby is not baptized and dies they go to a place called “limbo”, which is a nice place but they cannot ever enter into heaven
* Anabaptists also called re-baptizers, were persecuted unmercifully by many of the followers of Calvin and Luther
* Others state baptism is not necessary for salvation, so why do it?

So what has been the result? We have many, many people who are unregenerate before God who honestly believe that since they were sprinkled they are going to spend eternity in heaven. We have on the other hand, many regenerated believers who do not think baptism is a “big deal” and have a take it or leave it attitude towards baptism.

So let’s look to God’s Word for clarification

1. Direct command to the Church
2. Matthew 28:16-19
3. Direct command to believers
4. Acts 2:28
5. What is baptism?
6. It is a public service where someone comes to be immersed under water
7. Greek verb “bapto”
8. To dip in or immerse
9. Dyeing of a garment
10. Different from the Greek word “rhantizo or rhantizomai” which means to sprinkle
11. Matthew 3:5-6
12. “in the Jordan river” – not by it
13. Vs 16, Jesus came up from the water
14. Acts 8:35-39
15. Down to the water v38
16. Came out of the water v39
17. Serves as an object lesson to others
18. When did baptism start?
19. O.T.
20. Gentile or proselytes who wanted to serve Yahew
21. Had to go through a 3 step ritual
22. Melah – circumcision
23. Tebelaw – immersion in water
24. Why?
25. To show that they were dead in their old life to God
26. They were raised into a new life with a new family
27. Corban – animal had to be sacrificed
28. Blood was sprinkled on the person
29. Symbol of the forgiveness of sins
30. Through a substitutionary death
31. Why was Jesus baptized?
32. Matthew 3:13-17
33. John – says NO NO I need to be baptized by you
34. Not the other way around
35. You have nothing for which too repent
36. You have nothing of which to be forgiven
37. Jesus says
38. Yes – it must be done to “fulfill all righteousness”
39. What does that mean?
40. So we could identify with Him?
41. So He could identify with us?
42. Or could it be – to obey the command of God?
43. Repent, which He could not do
44. Be baptized, which He could do
45. To fulfill every command of God
46. John 4:1-2
47. Why would His disciples baptize anyone?
48. To fulfill the great commission
49. Baptism as a symbol
50. Romans 6:1-6
51. This is a spiritual union with the death of Christ
52. This is how we identify with His death
53. Dying to the old man
54. Being raised to new life in Christ