Spring Valley Baptist Church

BAPTISM
It's History And Meaning

Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Ephesians 4:5-6 - There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Methods And Meanings

Sacramental View -it as a means of salvation.

- •Baptism removes original sin and makes a person a child of God.
- •That's why infants are baptized – so they can enter God's covenant family from birth.
- •Roman Catholic, Orthodox, some Lutheran, Anglican and Church of Christ

Covenant View - it as a covenant that replaces the Old Testament covenant of circumcision.

- •Just as babies in Israel were circumcised to mark their place in the covenant community, so today, Christian parents baptize their infants as a sign that they belong to God's people.
- •Presbyterians and Reformed

Symbolic view - it as an act of obedience.

- •Baptists
- •Baptism does not save us. It does not wash away our sin. It is not a ritual to earn grace. Rather, it is a public declaration that salvation has already taken place.

Some Difficult Verses

Acts 2:38 Mark 16:16 1 Peter 3:21 John 3:5 Acts 22:16

The Biblical Method Of Baptism

The word "baptize" did not exist in the time of Jesus. We get the word from the Greek word "baptizo" which means "immerse."

Baptism in the Bible was by full immersion.

Mark 1:9-10 - One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. **10** As Jesus came up out of the water…

Acts 8:36-38 - As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" **38** He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Baptism in the New Testament after the resurrection followed a specific pattern:

- **•The gospel is preached.**
- **•People believe.**
- **•Then they are baptized.**

Full immersion shows the gospel in two ways:

- **•What Jesus did for us.**
  Jesus died and was buried (going under the water) and was raised to life three days later (coming up out of the water).
- **•What Jesus has done in us.**
  When we give our lives to Christ, we bury our old way of living (going under the water) and begin a new life living for Christ (coming up out of the water). Our sins were washed away and the water is a symbol of that cleansing.