

WEEK TWO

Baptism of

Dr. Tom Malone Sr.

Biblical Baptism

I got to thinking about baptism, believer's baptism, and who had the right to baptize, when to be baptized, what baptism means, and the thought came to me: Could anything be wrong with my baptism? I was baptized in a church that said: We will sprinkle you or baptize you by immersion in water. I had been baptized the night way, but I had questions in my mind. I prayed about it for a while, then I met an ordained Baptist preacher who was pastor of a little Baptist church down in Lafayette, Georgia. one night I went to that ordained Baptist preacher and said to him, "I have been saved and baptized by immersion, but I still have some questions about my baptism. I can't sleep well t night, I think of it so often, and i want to be absolutely right. I am going into the ministry. I don't ever want the Devil to say to me that there is something wrong with my salvation, something wrong with my baptism something wrong with my call to the ministry." I said to the preacher, "If you will, I want you to baptize me." So on

Baptism of

Dr. Tom Malone Sr.

Biblical Baptism pt. 2

I said to the preacher, "If you will, I want you to baptize me." So one morning before daylight, the preacher and I, with the Scriptures in our hands, fellowshiped together as we walked a mile from the dormitory to a little lake. We waded out into that lake. It was autumn, and brown leaves had fallen from the trees onto the water. About the time the sun came up, we raked the leaves back out of the way and lifted our voices to God and prayed. The preacher lifted up his hand and said, "I baptize thee, my brother, Tome Malon, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." He placed me down beneath the surface of the water and brought me up again. We put our arms around each other and wept and praised the lord and went back together. From that hour until this I have never doubted that I have completely obeyed the Son of God as a believer by being Scripturally baptized.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST: INITIAL MINISTRY

BAPTISM

Baptism is one of those teachings from God's Word that tends to get over-emphasized or under-emphasized. A man mistakenly said to me, "Of all people, why don't Baptists believe in baptism!"

His implication was that we are in error because we reject the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. He was certainly in error to suggest that we don't believe in baptism. Throughout the ages Baptists have suffered great persecution, beatings, imprisonment and death for maintaining a biblical view of baptism. Obadiah Holmes is an excellent example. It's not

that we don't believe in it, we just believe the right thing about it!

If baptism brought salvation, we might expect that the Lord Jesus would have personally baptized His followers. But He never did. Paul, the great evangelist, baptized very few (1 Corinthians 1:14-16). If baptism brought salvation, we might expect that they would have been personally engaged.

On the other hand, we find others who completely dismiss it. They reason that if it is not necessary for salvation, then it is not that important. Some suggest that the

mode of baptism doesn't even matter, so long as you meant well when you were baptized. Relativism and human intent is often used to rationalize unbiblical notions.

However, the Lord has a specific purpose and picture in mind for baptism. Any baptism contrary to biblical baptism destroys the type that God signified through baptism and is an incomplete picture. Just as Moses broke the type when he struck the rock the second time, so to an unbiblical baptism is an inaccurate representation of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

DAILY READING: Mark 1:1-11, Matthew 3, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:19-34

DAY

1

Cities/Places

1. How do we see Matthew addressing Jesus as King of the Jews?
2. How did John describe Jesus?
3. According to Mark, in what land and what river was John baptizing?
4. Where did Jesus come from to be baptized?
5. Use your map to determine how far Jesus must have travelled?
6. If the average human walks about four miles per hour on level ground, how long would it have taken Jesus to travel to be baptized?
7. What does this teach us about the importance of baptism?
8. Does Luke show characteristics of writing to a Gentile audience? If so what?
9. How does John contrast his baptism with that of Jesus?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

TEMPTED?

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” Hebrews 4:15

Temptation essentially comes in two forms: internal and external. A lady once suggested to me that if Jesus didn't have the desire to do wrong then He wasn't truly tempted. They may have been her definition but it is not a biblical definition. The Bible clearly teaches that impure thoughts are sin. Therefore, if Jesus experienced lust and hatred He would be

guilty of adultery and murder (Matthew 5:28, 1 John 3:15)

The Greek word *peirazo* refers to an external temptation. It is a solicitation much like a telemarketer who tries to entice you to buy their product but you have no internal inclination. This is the temptation that Jesus was confronted with. Satan was giving a hard-sell but Jesus wasn't buying!

Often our temptations begin externally. We should always recall the admonition of James 4:7. “Submit yourselves

therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Once we have yielded to that external temptation it begins to internalize and grow. James describes the temptation that begins within due to our own lusts. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:14-15

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” - Benjamin Franklin

DAILY READING: Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 3:23-4:13

1. Which Gospel author gives the shortest account?
2. 1 John 2:16 gives us the three areas of temptation that we all face. Jesus was tempted in each of these areas here in this passage. Correlate the temptations of Christ with these categories.
3. Correlate Eve's temptations from Genesis 3 with these categories.
4. What resource did Jesus use to resist temptation that we have available to us?

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Give the references for each Scripture quotation Jesus used.

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

DAY
2

Cites/Places

CAN ANY GOOD COME?

Nathanael didn't have a high opinion of Nazareth. Neither did anyone else. Situated seventy miles north of Jerusalem and belonging to the tribe of Zebulun, Nazareth had the reputation of simplicity. It is said that the people were of a rude and uncultivated sort. Their association with Gentiles earned them a reputation of low moral and religious character. Along with the other inhabitants of Galilee, the citizens of Nazareth were less cultured in their speech. In Matthew 26:73 and Mark 14:70, we see that Peter's dialect gave revealed his Galilean heritage.

In addition to the cultural sensitivities of the day, Jews knew that the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem according to Micah 5:2. So it is no surprise that Nathanael doubted Philip's findings. Rather than explain, Philip simply invited him to "come and see."

First, let us rejoice in the fact that Jesus can answer for Himself. "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalm 34:8

How happy Nathanael was that he accepted Philip's invitation to come and

see.

Then let us rejoice in the fact that God not only uses unlikely people but even unlikely places. Situations and locations that we might find to be the least desirable can still be used by God.

Perhaps you feel that your heritage limits you. No such thing is possible. Were you born on the "wrong side of the tracks?" God is not bound. God can and will use you.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-31.

DAILY READING: John 1:35- 3:36, Luke 3:19-20

DAY
3

Cities/Places

1. What title does John give to Jesus?
2. Name three of John's disciples the would become Apostles of Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus gives Peter a new name. What is it and what does it mean? Compare with Matthew 16:18.
4. Where and what was Jesus first recorded miracle?
5. What temple was Jesus speaking of? When did His disciples remember and understand?
6. Which Pharisee inquired of Jesus and at what time of day?
7. What is the condemnation?
8. Why was John baptizing in AEnon and does this tell us anything about the proper mode of baptism?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

A PROPHET'S HONOR

Jesus found believers in Jerusalem and even in Samaria. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, knew that He had come from God. John had unequivocally proclaimed Him to be the Lamb of God! Yet when Jesus returns home to Nazareth of Galilee they find fault with His gracious words. "Isn't this Joseph's boy?" they ask erroneously.

The Son of Man knows the hearts of men. People who think they have things figured out won't take time to let God reveal the truth to their hearts. Professing themselves to be wise, they are become fools.

They watched Jesus grow up. They saw Him toddle around the temple when He was two and remember Him getting left at Jerusalem when He was twelve. They were looking on as He learned carpentry from Joseph. They expected the simple life of every Nazarene for Jesus. Who did this poor son of a carpenter think he was?

At first puzzled by His rhetoric, they grew angry as He proclaimed Himself to be the fulfillment of Scripture. Their wrath was confirmed when He illustrated through Old Testament Scriptures.

Elijah and Elisha, two greatly revered prophets, performed miracles not for those of Israel but of Syria! Was Jesus suggesting that God would reject them if they rejected Him? The nationalistic minded Jews resented the implication. He had forgotten His place! How dare He proclaim Himself to be the Anointed One and show them such disrespect!

But their plans, as all plans against Christ, were doomed to failure. It was not His time and this was not His way. But His time would come and it would be His way.

DAILY READING: John 4, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 4:12-17, Luke 4:14-30

1. When and where did Jesus go and through what territory did He have to pass?
2. What type of relationship did the Jews have with Samaritans?
3. Contrast the two types of people that believed Jesus in John 4. How does this demonstrate the universality of Christ?
4. What was fulfilled? What was at hand? What were people to believe?

5. With what power did Jesus return to Galilee?
6. How does Isaiah 61:1 relate to your reading?
7. List six Scriptural prophecies that Jesus came to fulfill.

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

DAY
4

Cities/Places

BUILDING A TEAM

Even Jesus worked with a team. Thus far, He had worked alone: not alone from the Father but independent of a team. Now it was time to assemble His team.

Why did Jesus need a team? He didn't. The team needed Him! Jesus chose to use a team for the benefit of the team and for the benefit of the world. The team concept fit into His plan for us.

However, this was no ordinary team. It's members were not selected based on their resume. They were chosen not because of their qualifications but in

spite of their imperfections. He chose one who would doubt Him, one who would deny Him and one who would betray Him. He chose an impetuous loud mouth as well as those who were quiet and seldom spoke. He chose a tax cheat and a blasphemer. He chose men totally unfit for the team. Jesus doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Like them, you and I are completely incapable of achieving anything significant for Christ on our own. But when He builds a team He builds the team. I love the way Paul phrases it.

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 1:12-14

The team is only in its infancy now but it will become a team that will challenge and change the world forever!

DAILY READING: Mark 1:16-45, Matthew 4:18-25, Luke 4:31-5:11

DAY
5

Cities/Places

1. Contrast the teaching of Jesus with that of the scribes.
2. What did Jesus do early in the morning?
3. From what areas were people brought to Jesus? Draw an arrow on your map from each of these places to Galilee.
4. Describe how Jesus was received by the people?
5. Why do you believe Peter was so humbled?
6. Name the four disciples Jesus called.
7. What metaphor does Jesus use in calling His disciples? Explain why it is appropriate.

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?



TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S MESSAGE