

Scripture: Isaiah 63:15-64:12

CoF 34 (1)

Singing: 227:1-3 – 289:1-4 – 366:1-3 – 365:1-4

Intro: **Much Christian love is quenched with a few drops of water!** (Bunyan)

A. Baptism is important but is not saving nor eternal!

B. Baptism is to function in your faith life!

C. What if I am not baptized? Am I still as welcome and loved as the baptized?

1. Reflect: John 3:16-17 - Ezek. 33:11- Acts 3:26 - 13:38-39 – 2 Cor. 5:20

D. To make the hearing of God's Word most profitable

1. attend with much prayer for open mind and willing heart (Acts 17:11)

2. come prepared that your and mine task *is no easy task* (Matt. 5:21, 27, 31)

3. be ready to be wise if your views are Biblically challenged (2 Cor. 10:5)

4. mix all your hear and see with faith (Hebrews 4:1-3)

E. Where do we start our study of Baptism as a sacramental sign and seal truth?

1. Not with the New Testament teaching on Baptism

2. Jesus' NT teaching is built on Old Testament: Luke 24:27; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11; 2 Tim. 3:14-18

3. The relationship of the OT and NT is captured in words *amendment – expansion – deepening – enriching of the original*

a. there is more *similarity than dissimilarity*

- God's revelation of His love: Gen. 3:15 – John 3:16

- God's plan for salvation of sinners: Is 53:5, 10 - 2 Cor. 5:21

- God's method of justification by faith: Gen. 15:6 - Rom. 5:1

- God's name of His people: Ps. 81:8, 11 – Gal. 3:29

- God's teaching on needed heart change: Deut. 10:16 – John 3:3

F. Before the study of the ‘sign and seal’ comes the study of the Person

1. What does God uncover about His eternal existence before Gen. 1:1?

a. He Covenanted within Himself as a Triune God

The Father elected a people in the Son as their Mediator to be brought to saving faith through the Holy Spirit. (Michael Horton)

The Father freely chose specific individuals out of the mass of sinful humanity and covenanted them to the Son in order to redeem them as His own children. The Son freely covenanted to purchase those elect individuals through His active and passive obedience. In return He would receive the elect as His inheritance. The Holy Spirit covenanted to apply the purchased redemption by the Son to the elect. (Stephen Myers)

b. Support: John 6:38; 10:18; 12:49; Eph. 1:4; 3:10-11; 2 Tim.1:9-10

2. This revelation we have called *Covenant of Redemption – Counsel of peace*

a. It is the heart of the Gospel of only hope: Rom. 9:16

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

b. To help us know and believe His love story: God added ‘signs/seals’

- Gen. 3:22 (tree of life)
- Gen. 9:12-17 (rainbow)
- Gen. 17:5-14 (circumcision)
- Matt. 28:19-20 (baptism)

Close: The signs and seals of God’s covenant promises are ‘treasure of medicine’