

Sermon Outline

Thinking Theologically about Baptism | Tim Blagg

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 (p.1422), Romans 6:1-14 (p.1606)

Sacraments

1/ Thinking theologically about the “what” of baptism (what is it?)

Romans 6:1-4 – What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 – ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

2/ Thinking theologically about the “why” of baptism (why do we do it?)

Matthew 28:18-20 – ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Galatians 3:26-29 – ²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

3/ Thinking theologically about the “how” of baptism (how much water)

Titus 3:4-7 – ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 10:19-22 – ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, **having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

4/ Thinking theologically about the “who” of baptism (who should be baptised?)

View 1: Believer's Baptism (*credobaptism*)

Acts 2:38-39 – ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

View 2: Infant Baptism (*paedobaptism*)

Mark 10:13-16 – ¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Some recommended resources:

Chester, T. *Truth we can Touch*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Sproul, R. C. *What Is Baptism?*. First edition. Vol. 11 of The Crucial Questions Series.

Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust, 2011.

Family Perspectives Podcast – Baptism Episode

(<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5id7ZATbNd0zdpPuKdBgiP?si=b8a94c7ab93a4f14> / <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/family-perspectives/id1655613872?i=1000708543066>)