BIBLE BAPTISM

Ladies and gentlemen, I think you love the Bible. And we need to know what the Bible says. Ladies and gentlemen, I am honestly amazed at some of the things that are taught in the name of religion today. It amazes me how so many things can be taught in the name of religion when the Bible doesn't give one hint that these things are true. And all a person needs to do to find out if these things are true is to go to the Bible. Now it's only one book. It would be different if there were fifty books we had to learn and know. Just one book! And if we all went to that book for doctrine, we'd all believe the same thing. Amen.

I'm gonna talk about the Baptism tonight, and most folks think they know a lot about it. I'm gonna start with an illustration. I'm from the state of Oregon. About five minutes from my house is the state of Washington. Both Oregon and Washington are logging countries. And I have been to some of these lumber mills. And it's fantastic to see the skill used. They have computers that run those saws. And the blades are double-edged, they cut going and coming. You've never seen anything quite like it.

We have huge ponds and fast-moving mountain streams out there.and a dozen logging companies can be in the woods, and they cut these large trees and haul them down to the river and just throw them in. Now they all are different companies, yet they throw them in all together. Now how does one company know his log from another man's? When the companies are working in the woods with those huge trees preparing for lumber, they have crews cutting, crews trimming, and crews hauling them. They have all kinds of sophisticated equipment. And it is true that they all dump into the same river and their logs all float down together. But they are all headed down to a central point where there's a great big pond. And these logs gather there by the hundreds of thousands.

How do they separate them? These logging outfits have a mark that is almost like a brand, only they don't have to heat it. They just walk around to the but end of the log and they place that brand against it and tap it with a hammer. And on every one of their logs is their own special brand or mark. Then they throw it into the river. But when they get down to the end of the run, where the separating is done, the man who has put his own mark on the log just stands there. And anytime he sees one bearing his mark, he knows that that one belongs to him. And he pulls it aside for his own use.

Baptism is something like that. It is God's way of putting His brand on His people. Baptism is an outward demonstration of an inward faith. God baptizes His people with the Holy Spirit. They then are baptized of water as a sign and a testimony to the whole world, that they now belong to Jesus.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward cleansing. And when one has been baptized, the word is supposed to get around. It's a public testimony, like marriage. You don't marry and then fall in love, you are in love when you get married. When you are baptized, you don't get baptized and then come to Jesus. You come to Jesus first, and then you are baptized as a public testimony to your faith. Baptism is our way of telling families, our relatives, our friends, the whole city of ___ that I have began a journey with the Lord, to obey all of His commandments. Baptism is the door to the church.

Now, when a person has been baptized, the family, the neighbors, the city, has a right to expect him to be different. That's why conversion must come first. If you're not converted and you're baptized, you just go down and come up a wet devil.

So what you need first is to have your heart cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Then you come into the water. I wanna tell you now, there is no power in the water. The water that you're baptized in is the same water that you washed your clothes in. There is no magic in the water. The power is in the blood. And if you have been cleansed of your sins, if you've confessed them, if you believe God's word, and you're ready to do God's word, then you're ready for baptism, and not until then.

Now what's this baptism all about? I want you to write down some basic texts. 1. Mark 16:16. Jesus says; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." 2. Acts 22:16. the text says, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Baptism is a sacrament of the Christian church. Christ endorses it. And He said, if you believe and are baptized, you shall be saved. 3. Acts 2:28: this is the day of Pentecost, the men asked, What shall we do? Peter said "Repent and be baptized." Now he didn't say be baptized and repent. He said repent first. Then after you have repented, Peter said, be baptized.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the Bible makes one thing clear. Before a person is ready for baptism, be he man or woman, boy or girl, there is some heart preparation necessary. You ought to repent of your sins and confess them to be forgiven in the name of Jesus. That ought to come first. In Proverbs 28:13, the Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

It is not enough to confess, you've gotta forsake! Forsake means you gotta give them up. You've gotta stop. And 1 John 3:4 says sin is the transgression of the law. So if you've been breaking God's law, whether deliberately or in ignorance, you've gotta repent of that. For that is sin. Would you say Amen. And having repented, you've gotta stop. In Romans 2:4, the Bible says it is the goodness of God that leadeth thee to repentance. God brought you to this sanctuary to hear His word. I believe that as surely as I believe my name is what it is. I don't believe that anybody just accidentally dropped by here. I believe the Holy Spirit has brought us together to study God's word.

And God's not gonna punish anybody until He warns them. So whether you obey God or not, you are brought here, so that God might judge you fairly in the judgment. No accident! And so you must confess. And let me say this: there are those, bless their hearts, who don't know any better, but they run everyday to confess. And go right out and do it again. I tell you that kind of thing will harden your heart. God says if you're gonna confess, forsake. Be ready to quit. And when you quit, the Bible says you will have mercy.

Now, not only heart preparation is necessary, but head preparation too. You know everybody what's an emotional experience and don't wanna learn anything. Let me assure you, ladies and gentlemen, God is an intelligent God. And you've got to know something in order to please God. God didn't write all this Bible for you to walk by and have a good feeling on. He wants you to study it. He wants you to learn something. Jesus said in John 5:39, search the scripture. God wants us to make intelligent decisions, based on the unquestionable authority of His word. So you've got to learn something in order to please God. So don't be like that person I preached about when I said, the fool has no delight in understanding. Some people don't wanna know anything. They just wanna feel something. They wanna shout. They wanna feel electricity running up and down their backs. They wanna get up and knock over some

chairs, and scream and yell. Now I'm not belittling emotions. What I'm saying is that it's not enough. You've got to know something before you can repent. You don't what to repent of until you know what's right and what's wrong.

And the Bible says, by the law is the knowledge of sin. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus is speaking. He says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost:" He said go and do what? Then Baptize. The teaching must come first and the baptism second. Christ wants you to understand, and make an intelligent decision based on an intelligent understanding. When you make that decision, knowing what God expects of you then you are ready for baptism.

Now I have known of experience where people went to a church, joined the church, and were baptized all in the same day. Don't know anymore of what God expects of them than that gravel down there on the ground. Now my friends, that's not the Lord's way. God said to His disciples, go and teach. Do you think I've been preaching out here almost three weeks just for my health? My health is much better when I don't do this. Do you think I'm doing it for fun? God has commissioned us to go and teach. I wasn't here until a week before somebody wanted to know when you gonna open the doors of the church. If your heart is made up to serve God, don't rush anything, you're already accepted into God's family of grace. Just sit there and let God speak to you. Now I'm not saying Baker, I'm saying God! You see I'm not important. It wouldn't matter if Baker or John Doe were up here. As long as he was preaching the word, you'd get the word.

Go ye therefore and teach. After you have taught, baptize. And don't baptize anybody that's mad with the word of God. I wanna baptize everybody that's ready to do right. I don't wanna baptize a soul, that's not ready to do right. Some people go out for big numbers. Not me. I want everybody who's ready to do God's will to be baptized. But not just for numbers. We've got too many folks in the church already. We got some hypocrites we've gotta get rid of. What we want is men and women who are ready to do God's will, and understand His will because they've been taught. When you understand and are ready to do, then the Lord says baptize that man, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. If the churches did that, Christians would be different! Now you're always gonna get a hold of a few false ones, even Jesus got a hold to some. Notice I didn't say one, I said some. Peter cursed and swore that he didn't know Jesus. He was just saved by grace later on. James and John were sons of thunder. So high tempered that they wanted to burn up some folks who didn't pay them high respect. They had to be converted. You're always gonna win some folks who are not ready. But I don't want it to be because I didn't teach you.

Now what's the method of Baptism? Now I wanna make one thing clear. When people do they best they know, God winks at ignorance (Acts 17:30). The Bible tells us how Christ was baptized. And the Bible He left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps. Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The Bible says, if you're gonna be baptized, you ought to be buried. Baptism means to completely submerge and cover with a liquid. Colossians 2:12 says, "Buried with Him in the baptism wherein also you are raised with Him through faith of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead." Baptism represents the burial of sin. Romans 6:2, Paul says, "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

A Christian who is converted and has confessed his sins is supposed to be dead to sin. In other words, if you were a drunkard, and gave your heart to Jesus, I might come along and offer you a drink. But you would no more drink that than a dead man. Amen. And so baptism represents the burial of the old man of sin. Now you can't bury anybody in a silver cup. And you can't bury anybody in one of these pretty baptismal fountains that sit down in a church. There's gotta be enough water for a person to go down into, and go down in. In Matthew 3:16, the Bible says when Jesus was baptized, he "went up straightaway out of the water…" You can't go up out of a cup of water. Amen. In John 3:23, "John the Baptist was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized." John could have stayed where he was if he only needed a cup of water.

In 1 Peter 4:2, Peter says once you get straightened out, you should no longer live to the lusts of the flesh. Even after you've baptized the flesh will wanna drink, or it will want you to see the wrong thing or hear the wrong thing or read the wrong thing. You will still be tempted, but you shouldn't yield. Jesus says, behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man will hear my voice and will open the door, I will come in. And so you should start with Jesus. Let Him come into your heart, let Him control you. Do you know the first gentile of which we have record of being baptized into into the Christian church was a Black man. He was a Eunuch from Ethiopia. A nobleman. And one day he was so concerned to please God that he was baptized (Acts 8:36-38).

Now when a person dies you don't take him out to the graveyard, set him on top of the ground and sprinkle a handful of dirt on them, do you? No. You got to bury them. That means there's got to be a hole. You put them in it and you cover them up. And when you cover them up, they're buried.

Now there's no command in the Bible to baptize babies. Now folks listen, I know how pretty it is. Everybody loves a baby. I know how folks love to ooh and aah, but it is not in the scriptures. Amen. Now why shouldn't a child be baptized? The bible says you gotta repent before you're baptized. An infant can't repent. You've gotta believe, an infant can't believe.

Now Acts 19 talks about rebaptism. There was a group of people who were Christians, they were brought into the church by a man named Apollos. But they didn't know the whole truth. They lived up to all they knew. But they didn't know everything. They didn't know the precious truth for their time. They had been baptized, but now they had complete know and were baptized again. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have been baptized once, and you've been keeping nine of God's commandments, and God through His grace brings you into a full knowledge of not nine, but all ten, when you see it, and you're ready to follow the Lord, you ought to be baptized again. That's what happened in Acts 19:1-5.

God's desire that men should be baptized, for it's your way of saying to the world, Jesus is my Savior. I was lost but now I'm found. I was blind, but now I see. My dear brothers and sisters, if this message is clear to your heart, and you that God for it, I want you to stand with me for prayer.

Father in heaven, no person ever walked the earth who was as perfect as You, and have left us a good example and have told us to follow in your footsteps. And Lord we're gonna be baptizing soon. And there are men and women who need to make that commitment: to walk with the Lord, to keep His commandments. And then

to seal their commitment by baptism. Speak to their hearts. Impress them by the Holy Ghost until they make that decision. Because Lord, you're coming soon. And a lot of folks who have heard the truth are going to hell. But bless God somebody is going to heaven. Save thy people. Lord, I'm not asking you to make any disciple for me. I'm not asking you to give me anything. Win them to thyself. Because I can't save anybody. Win men and women to thyself. And I ask it in the name of Jesus.

There is hope for you, who takes the watery grave.

There is hope for you, who are buried beneath the wave.

There is hope for you, for Christ is mighty to save.

There is hope for you, the truths no longer hid.

There is hope for you, just do what Jesus did.

There is hope for you, your soul of error rid.

There is hope in Christ for you.