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THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

Colossians 2:16-23
Lesson #9
Take Baptism seriously
03/22/2026

1

Taking Christian baptism seriously

Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and acceptable**  **holy sacrifice,** to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2

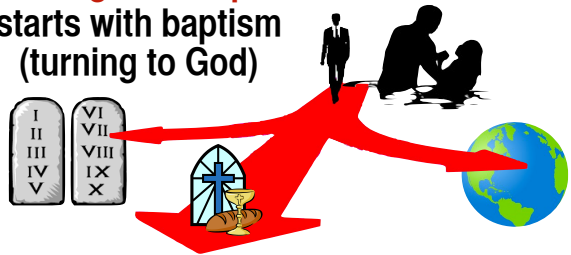


Take our baptism seriously means:

- Looking beyond the shadows
- Living beyond the superficial
- Loving beyond one’s self

3

Walking in the Spirit starts with baptism (turning to God)



- It is **seeing** the glory of the Cross.
- IT is **turning** from the values of the old self.
- It is **dying** with Christ to the Law’s condemnation.

4

Colossians 2

“16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on {visions} he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) – in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”

5

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Look beyond the shadows.

A shadow reminds us that we are not alone.

1. Being in fellowship with Christ by faith is vital to all authentic human relationships.

6

The Gospel was a mystery (shadow) until it was revealed to the Apostles.

Hebrews 10:1

“The law has but a **shadow** of the good things to come, instead of the true form of these realities.”

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Ephesians 3

“4 the **mystery** of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has **now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**”

7

Matthew 28

“19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

As Apostles of Christ in a hostile world we should expect to feel alone as aliens.

We are called to walk by faith, not finding community acceptance in this world, while knowing we will never be alone “in Christ”!

8

The beginning of Jesus’ ministry

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel, which translated means, God with us.**”

The end of Jesus’ earthly ministry

Matthew 28

“19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

9

The essence of **heaven** is intimate community.

The healthy **church** is the Body of Christ functioning as an authentic community.

The healthy **family** is based on authentic community.

Jesus prayer for his followers is for **a loving community.**

Authentic community starts with knowing that we are not alone “in Christ”, which frees us to be part of an loving community, without manipulating others to be our Messiah.

(Note Paul’s modeling in this letter)

10

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.
 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for You are with me;
 Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

11

Psalm 23

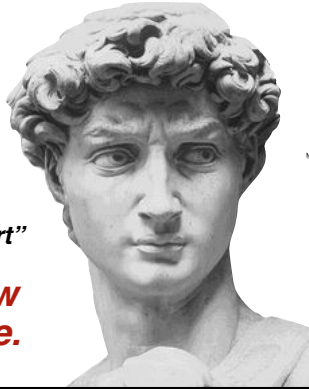
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12

King David wrote Ps.23

- ✓ Great power and accomplishments.
- ✓ Great weakness and failure.
- ✓ Great legacy as:
 - Model of Messiah "Son of David"
 - "Man after God's heart"

Wise people know they are not alone.



13

Psalm 23 is about

what I see about my Shepherd and me,

not what I do or others do to me



14

Colossians 2

"18 Let no one keep defrauding you of **your prize** by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and **not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.**"

Live beyond the superficial.

Hold fast to the Head and the Body of Christ.

2. Engage in authentic relationships.

15



The Spirit in community is not forced conformity but willful sacrifice and respect for one another's needs, gifts, and differences.

Galatians 6:2

"Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ."

"worthy of the gospel of Christ"

Acts 4

"34 For there **was not a needy person among them**, for all who were owners of land or houses **would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales**, 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet; and **they would be distributed to each, as any had need.**"

16

Personal glory comes from the end game, knowing we have done our part.



Every player has a key role starting with the linemen.

James 1

"9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to **glory in his high position**; 10 and the rich man *is to* **glory in his humiliation**, because like flowering grass he will pass away."

17

Colossians 2

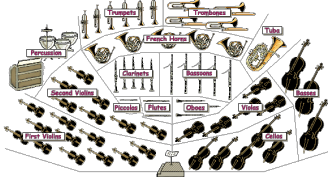
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Love beyond the self.

3. Invest in things that don't pass away and are not all about you.

18

The Body of Christ is a family, team, orchestra.



The church is the Body of Christ, but only when the pieces function as **attached to one another and the head.**



not clones of one template



not the body parts of Christ

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

19

Isaiah 53:3 **Despised & forsaken by man, acquainted with grief,**



a man of sorrows, smitten by God, prince of peace

John 17:26

“that the love with which You loved me might be in them and I in them”

20



“A team plays for the name on the front of the jersey not for the name on the back!”

Dean Smith



21

Water baptism

is your positional washing as a believer priest.

“. . . baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”



1 Peter 3:21

22

Colossians 3

“1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** 3 **For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

23