

Sermon Outline

BAPTIZED NATION

BAPTIZED INTO GOD (MATTHEW 28:19-20)

I. Going Deeper into the Palace of Our Baptism

II. Go and Make Disciples of all Nations (Matt 28:19a-b)

- A. In English translations, there are two imperatives that govern verse 19.
 - 1. “Go”
 - 2. “Make disciples”
- B. Everything else in the Great Commission is a means to make disciples for Christ.
- C. There are three issues to tackle.
 - 1. Who are to “go”?
 - a. The instruction was first given to the apostles.
 - b. Since the apostles were the foundation-leaders of the church, the whole church, at all its different manifestations, must go.
 - c. Every Christian must, in his own little way, share in the “going” of the church.
 - 2. Why are we to “go”?
 - a. We are to go and make disciples.
 - b. *Discipleship* is a primary focus of the church’s activity.
 - 3. What is the scope of our discipleship?
 - a. The scope of discipleship is “all nations.”
 - b. “Nations” (*ethnē*) here means ethnic groups, implying different cultures and civilizations.

III. Baptizing Them (Matt 28:19c)

- A. How does Christ want the work of discipleship to proceed?
 - 1. Discipleship is carried out by *baptism* in the triune Name of YHWH (Mt 28:19c).
 - 2. Discipleship is carried out by *teaching* people the words of Christ (Mt 28:20).
- B. What does baptism in the Name of the triune God mean?
 - 1. We saw two meanings of baptism in the previous lesson.
 - a. Baptism is a *washing* rite, symbolizing the cleansing of sin.
 - b. Baptism is a *unifying* rite, symbolizing our identification with Christ Jesus (1 Cor 10:1-2, Gal 3:27).
 - 2. In light of 1 (a) and (b), Trinitarian baptism is...
 - a. The washing of the new Christian under the authority of the triune God.

- b. The bestowal of the Name of the triune God on the new Christian.

IV. Teaching Them to Observe (Matt 28:20a)

- A. Baptism is to be accompanied by teaching.
- B. The church is meant to be a *bet midrash*, a “house of study.”
- C. Christ wants his church both to impart and receive his beliefs, values, and instructions.
- D. Here is a summary of 28:19-20.
 - 1. God wants the church to make disciples of all civilizations.
 - 2. The way the church makes disciples is by...
 - a. baptizing people in the Name of the triune God
 - b. teaching them to observe all the commandments of Christ Jesus.

V. The Relation between Christian Teaching and Baptism

- A. Baptism is, in a sense, the opening movement to discipleship.
- B. The baptized person moves from baptism to receive Christ’s teachings.
- C. But what lies at the heart of Christ’s teachings? *God himself! (Jn 1:18)*
- D. Since baptism is union with God, Christian teaching is therefore an “unpacking” of what baptism means.

VI. Receive the Triune Lord in All His Glory!

Now that we have been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the first and most critical response we can give to our baptism is simply to receive the holy Reality behind it. This Reality may not be reduced to any one blessing. Its center is the triune God himself.

- A. We receive the triune God as the Lord of our lives.
- B. We receive the lordship of the triune God in all its different functions for us.
 - 1. While God is our Lord, his lordship is manifested differently according to each member of the Trinity.
 - 2. God the Son, Jesus Christ shows his lordship in saving us.
 - 3. God the Holy Spirit shows his lordship in binding us to Christ and preserving our faith in Christ.
 - 4. God the Father shows his lordship in ruling our lives and destinies, and bringing us to his glory (Rom 8:30).
- C. At our baptism, we receive the Lord YHWH as our *Savior, Preserver, and King.*