

Sanctuary (1961) 1 of 2

#0873

Study given by W.D. Frazee—October 20, 1961

[Singing.]

And gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20. It's a very personal matter, isn't it. And this matter of baptism is very personal.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” Galatians 3:27.

The apostle says. Tonight, I'd like to begin our study with the commission of our Savior in Matthew, the 28th chapter, verses 18-20:

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world”
Matthew 28:18-20.

Is he here, then, tonight? Oh, yes. And will He be with us tomorrow as we go into the waters of baptism? Yes, He will. His word is pledged, my friends, and He cannot lie. He cannot fail. As sure as God is true, Jesus is with His church as it goes forth into a world of doubt and darkness and despair, teaching and baptizing, teaching and baptizing.

Now, you notice that before the church baptizes, it must teach. Now, that's why we don't baptize infants. You can't take a little baby in arms and teach him about the Gospel. His time will come, but Jesus says, Teach *and* baptize. Now, of course, the counterpart to the teaching is the believing. The church teaches. The individual who hears the teaching believes.

And so, it's written in Mark, the 16th chapter, verses 15 and 16:

“...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”
Mark 16:15-16.

You note, then, from these two scriptures, Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15 and 16—you note that baptism includes these essential facts, along with others which we shall study—first, that the church has taught you something. Second, that you believe what the church teaches.

If the church has not taught you what Jesus told it to teach you, it has no right to baptize you, and if you do not believe that which the church has been commissioned by Christ to teach, then it is not for you to be baptized.

Baptism is a sign that the church has taught you the essential truths of the Gospel, and baptism is a sign that you have accepted those truths, that you believe them with all your heart.

You remember that man from Ethiopia that the Bible speaks of in Acts, the eighth chapter. Let's turn over there and read the story. The question of his baptism hung on this essential point. Had he been taught and did he believe the essential truth for that hour.

You remember that he was riding along in his chariot. Philip, the representative of the church, sent by Jesus, approached him as he was riding along there in the desert. What a wonderful thing it is, my friends, for providence to be guiding.

I wonder if providence had guided in any of your lives to lead you in contact with this message—to bring this message to you. Oh, I believe it has, friends, with every one of you. Doubtless, if we had time tonight, there are many wonderful links in the chain of providence that has brought each one of you to this hour.

Well, so it was in the case of this man from Ethiopia. He is riding along in his chariot, and he's reading from the Bible, from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Philip, directed by the Spirit, comes to him and, as he runs along by the chariot, he hears this man reading the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. He says, Do you understand what you're reading? And, oh, my friends, I'm thankful that that man had, shall I say, sense enough to say, How can I except some man should guide me.

“...How can I, except some man should guide me...”
Acts 8:31.

There are people in this world that are content to say, Oh, I don't need any minister to teach me. I don't need any church to instruct me. I'll just read the Bible and worship God as I please. But not so, this man. And it wasn't because he was ignorant and illiterate and uneducated. He was one of the leading officers of Ethiopia, the treasurer under the queen. He'd been up to Jerusalem to worship.

But, ah, my friends, he sensed that in order to understand the things of God as revealed in the scripture, he needed someone to help him and, oh, I'm so glad, friends, that to each one of you has come messengers sent by God, appointed by His church, to bring to you an understanding of the message for this hour.

Well, Philip started right in at that scripture that he was reading from the 53rd of Isaiah and fulfilled the Gospel commission. We're not told how long they were together, but at any rate, as they rode along through the desert reading the scripture, and Philip preaching the Gospel, the record says, in the 36th verse:

“...they came unto a certain water...” Acts 8:36.

Water’s not plentiful in the desert. Doubtless, they had ridden many miles before they came to this water. Doubtless, the man from Ethiopia reflected, for he knew the road, there’d be many more miles before there’d be any more water, and what did he say?

“...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”
Acts 8:36.

There are two things that I want you to see in the heart of this dear man. First, he wanted to be baptized. My friends, that’s a very appropriate thing. And, oh, I pray that whoever here this evening has not yet been baptized into the true church of Jesus—I trust that in your heart tonight there will be kindled that same longing desire that filled this man’s heart—that you, too, will want to be baptized.

But now, notice, along with this great longing, there was also a recognition of the fact that somebody else had to decide when and where he would be baptized. You know, there are people that don’t understand this question. They suppose that when *they* get ready to be baptized, all they have to do is find somebody who will put them under the water and they’re baptized because they’ve decided to be.

Somebody says, Well, isn’t that the way it is? No, my friends, not in the true church of Jesus Christ. True, no man can be baptized until *he* makes the decision that he wants to be, but that’s only half of it. The church, through its delegated, authorized agents, has a decision to make, and that was recognized by this man.

He said:

“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”
Acts 8:36.

In other words, is there anything standing in the road? Can I, may I, be baptized? I want to be. Oh, can I?

“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest...” Acts 8:37.

Philip knew what it was necessary to teach that man before he was baptized, and the eunuch didn’t know how much he had to know before he was baptized.

Years ago where we were holding a series of evangelistic meetings, a man came to me—he had been studying the truth for some time before we ever had our meetings—he came to me and he said he wanted to be baptized when we had our baptism.

In the course of our conversation, he said to me, I can answer any question a minister would ask me, and at once, I was very cautious. I could tell you more about that story, but friends, I never baptized that man. He was *sure* that he was ready. I had my doubts, and I had reason to have my doubts, as time went on.

Let me tell you that the man who is truly converted approaches the church and the ministry with a humble heart, not boasting of what he knows, not saying, Oh, I know I'm ready. It's time for me to be baptized, and I just want somebody to do it, but I know I'm ready. I know I'm ready.

I had another experience, oh, so different, not many miles from there in another city where we were laboring. Came up to the night before baptism, just like tonight before tomorrow's baptism, and the woman and her daughter who had been in our baptismal class came to me, said, Brother Frazee, we're just afraid we can't go ahead tomorrow. What's the matter? Well, we're not good enough. We're not good enough. We're just afraid and we're not ready.

Well, as I inquired, do you know what I found, friends? I found that they were perfectly willing to do what Jesus wanted them to do, but they knew that in their hearts they were longing to do certain things that weren't the thing to do, and recognizing those longings down in their hearts to do the wrong thing, they just wondered whether they should be baptized.

Well, I explained to them the precious truth that temptation is not sin, and that the human heart is deceitful above all things, but that baptism is not a sign that we've reached perfection. Baptism is not a token that we have graduated. Oh, no. Baptism is not the end of the Christian life, it's the beginning. It's not a sign that we've reached perfection, but it is a token that we want to be perfect and that we're trusting in Jesus and His keeping power. They went ahead and were baptized.

And so it was with this man. He said, Oh, here is water. I want to be baptized, But can I? Oh, can I? Philip said, If you believe—if you believe with all your heart—you may.

“And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” Acts 8:37.

Oh, what a glorious experience way out there in the desert, my friends. And thank God, from that day to this, there have been men commissioned from heaven that have gone out into this world to teach the Gospel and to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Now, you know, this book of Acts is a wonderful book. Let's turn to the 19th chapter. I want to show you something very interesting here, very interesting:

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” Acts 19:1-5.

Had these people ever been baptized? Oh, yes. They'd been baptized by John's baptism. John, you remember, was a messenger sent by God to prepare the way for Christ's first advent. He came and did his work. He even baptized Jesus. He baptized a number of Jesus' disciples.

But now, here we are down a number of years after the cross, and Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, comes, preaching the special message for that hour, and he finds these men that have heard the preaching of John the Baptist and accepted it and been baptized—he says, Have you received the Holy Spirit? No, they said, we haven't heard about that? You haven't? Well, who baptized you? Why, we received John's baptism.

Now, I want to ask you something. When they received John's baptism, what did that show as to what teaching they'd received? John's teaching. What did it show as to what teaching they believed? John's teaching. Do you see how intimately the question of teaching and believing and baptism are linked?

And now comes Paul with a—shall I say, a larger message, a clearer message, a new unfolding of the great Gospel truth, and what do these people do? Oh, as they hear that message and accept that, they are baptized, again. Right? That's what it says.

Some of you dear ones sitting here tonight—you've been baptized before, in other churches, and when you believed that the message that you were taught in that church was the true message and that in accepting it you were following Christ, you were baptized, and that baptism was a sign that you believed that message and accepted it. Is that correct? Why, sure.

But now, in the providence of God, you have heard a special message, a special message, and as you have heard that message, your heart has been touched. You've been convicted with the truth of this particular message, and so, like these disciples back there, you want to be baptized as a token of the fact that you have heard the special message for *this* hour and have accepted it with all your heart, and as you do that, my dear friends, God will give you His Holy Spirit in special measure as He did these disciples on this occasion.

Now, let me tell you, friends, there never has been a time in all the history of the world when God had a special message of greater importance than at the present hour. That special message is specifically pointed out in Daniel, the 8th chapter, and the 14th verse, and Revelation, the 14th chapter, verses 6-12, and I wish you'd put that down in your notes.

I'll tell you, friends, if you've come to this church, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, God's remnant church in this remnant hour, you are to be baptized into the church of the sanctuary, you are to be baptized into an understanding of the special work that Jesus has done, that He is doing and that He is about to do. And never in all the history of the world has there been available such a flood of light concerning the work of Jesus, past, present and future, as there is in this wonderful message of Daniel and Revelation.

What does He say there in Daniel 8:14?

“And he said unto me...” Daniel 8:14

All together:

“...Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

Be cleansed from what? Oh, from sin. Going to be a wonderful thing, friends, when the sins are all cleansed and washed away. Won't it? Yes. And that day—unto 2,300 days—points with the unerring accuracy of the prophetic pencil to that October 22, 1844.

You know, just day after tomorrow, we're going to pass another anniversary of that memorable date, aren't we. And so, tonight, I'd like to have you think of the sanctuary, the work that Jesus has been doing there, that He is doing and that He's about to do, which has to do with cleansing from sin, for that is what baptism represents, the cleansing from sin. And I want your baptism to be forever linked in your mind with the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary. I want you to be baptized into the faith of the sanctuary, the special message of God committed to this people for this last generation. This is the message of the angel who flies in mid-heaven with the everlasting Gospel saying:

“...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come...” Revelation 14:7.

That points to the same date as Daniel 8:14—October 22, 1844.

Now, I would like to note with you the three great things that Jesus does for us, and note how these are linked with the sanctuary and note how baptism is to remind you of each one of these three things.

The first thing is given us in 1 Corinthians, the 15th chapter. 1 Corinthians 15, the 3rd verse:

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ...” 1 Corinthians 15:3.

Did what?

“...died for our sins according to the scriptures”
1 Corinthians 15:3.

What did Jesus do? He died for our sins. Where did He die? On the cross, on the cross. The cross is that great fact in the plan of salvation that draws the attention of all the universe—Christ died for our sins.

May I make that very personal? I hope that each one of you will. He died for me. It was for me that Jesus came and suffered, for me He died upon the tree. Thank God, friends, He died for me. But, ah, that is exactly the great fact and the great truth that baptism symbolizes and commemorates—the death of Jesus, His burial and resurrection.

Turn to Romans, the sixth chapter, and let us read it. The one who is baptized is baptized in token of his faith in this great fact that Jesus died for him. Romans 6, 3rd verse:

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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” Romans 6:3-4.

You see it, then, don't you. Yes. The great fact of Calvary, the sacrifice for sin—as I accept that, I go down into the water. As Jesus died, I die to sin. As He was buried, I'm buried beneath the water. And then, as He was raised, I'm raised to walk in the new life.

My point is, in being baptized, I accept that great fact that Jesus died for me. I accepted of the historical fact—what He did on Calvary 2,000 years ago—and, oh, I accept it, that it was for me, and that I am accepting that this hour—Jesus died for me.

But, ah, the sanctuary shows us the second great work that He has to do for us. That offering on the cross was once for all. It was complete. But, oh, it was to be offered, presented in the heavenly sanctuary.

You remember how it was made clear in Moses' sanctuary. The repenting sinner brought his sacrifice to the door of the sanctuary. He placed his hand on the head of that bullock, that lamb, and confessed his sin, thus, transferring his sin to the substitute.

Then, with his own hand, he took the knife and slew the innocent substitute, and the priest took the blood within the veil and sprinkled it on the horns of the golden altar and before the veil of the most holy place, thus, in figure, transferring the sin from the sinner through the blood of the substitute to the sanctuary, and thus, the sin was in the sanctuary, covered with the blood, the life, of the substitute.

And so, my dear friends, the Jesus who died for us as our sacrifice goes into the heavenly sanctuary as our substitute, and there He pleads His blood in our behalf and, as we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to what? Forgive us our sins. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is? Covered.

And, oh, I love to think about it—I love to think about it, friends. Just suppose that I take this card and I write on it, Sin, sin, and every one of us has sinned, but, oh, I bring that sin to Jesus and I'm going to put it here in this Bible representing Jesus, the living word. Now, where is it? Oh, it's covered, covered by His precious life. There He is in the sanctuary tonight, my friends, my sins covered with His precious blood. Every sin that I've confessed, He's forgiven and covered. Isn't that a great fact, a great truth, to know and rejoice in?

But, ah, friends, as baptism is the sign that He died for me, baptism is also the sign that He forgives my sins. Acts, the 2nd chapter, and the 38th verse. Let's read it. Acts 2:38:

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...” Acts 2:38.

What for?

“...for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” Acts 2:38.

What's baptism for? Why, the remission of sins, the forgiveness of sins, the covering of sins, the taking away of sins. And so, when I'm baptized—watch this—I not only believe that Jesus died for me, I believe that He takes my sin away. I behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29. Where does He take it? Oh, He takes it to Calvary and there He pays the debt. He takes it to the heavenly sanctuary and there He covers it with His precious blood.

And so, when you're baptized tomorrow, dear ones, claim this glorious promise that the Savior who died for you, lives for you, to make intercession for you and to cover all your sins through the sacrifice of His blood. Believe that they're covered by His precious blood. And that's why that you're buried in baptism, not just sprinkled. Oh, you want to be all covered up, don't you. You want all the past buried. You want every sin covered. Thank God, it is even so.

But now, there's a third and final work that Jesus is longing to do in completing the plan of salvation. Acts, the 3rd chapter, and the 19th verse. Acts 3:19:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be...” Acts 3:19.

Covered? No. What? Blotted out.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ...” Acts 3:19-20.

Ah, is there a difference between covering sins and blotting them out? Yes, there is, friends. Suppose there's a blackboard up here and I write on it your sins. Glad we don't have to write anybody's sins down here, aren't you, but they're written on the record books of heaven, my friends, by the angel penmen that never make a mistake.

Now, suppose that those sins are written there on the blackboard. You say, Oh, I hate to think of the record of those sins, but I say, There's good news. They can be covered. And so, I take a clean white handkerchief, and I cover all the record of those sins, and when you look and there's not one single trace. They're all covered.

But, ah, if I could look, what's underneath—the records, the records. But, oh, suppose now, I take that handkerchief and I rub that blackboard back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. What happens to that record of sin? It's erased. It's blotted out.

And I tell you, my dear friends, the blood of Christ shed on Calvary, which is efficacious to cover your sins in the sanctuary, is efficacious to blot them out in the final judgment, and that's the work of the most holy place. That's what He goes in there for at the mercy seat, with the smoking censer and the sprinkled blood—that He may blot out those sins forever.

Oh, I'm so glad when we get up there to heaven that there won't be any record of sins kept back in some vault somewhere.

“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” Isaiah 43:25.

Isn't that nice, friends. Jesus is engaged in the blessed work of putting an end to sin, and He wants to blot out every record of sin, wash it away completely, forever, so that there's no trace of it left in the universe. He sees your sins, my sins, to be blotted out forever, completely. That's the work, the closing work, of the most holy place, and friends, may I tell you, that baptism is an expression of

your faith in the fact that the Savior who has begun a work in your life will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6.

You're not perfect, friends, and may I suggest this to you. While you're coming into a church that has a perfect truth, you'll find that there are a good many people in it that are not perfect yet. Never, never, take your eyes off Jesus and look at people.

You know, I've thought of it this way, if you'll allow this homely illustration. In the laundry, there's a washing machine, and what do you find there? Why, clothes of all kinds, just being tumbled around. What kind of clothes? Yes. Soiled clothes, dirty clothes, we call them.

[Tape stopped in progress.]

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