

Today's Message

I. _____ Practices (Matthew 28:18-20)

Proclamation of the Word: Mt. 4:4, Jn. 17:17 Acts 20:32, 1 Cor. 1:17-2:2, 2 Cor. 4:5-6, 1 Pt. 1:23-2:3, 1 Tim. 4:11-16, 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:14-4:5, Heb. 4:12-13

Baptism: Acts 2:38, 8:36-39, 10:44-48, 16:15, 33, 22:16, Rom. 6:1-11, Gal. 3:27, Col. 2:12

The Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:26-29, Jn. 6:53-57, 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-34,

II. _____ Practices

Proclamation of the Word: the Gospel must be the _____ of all we teach (Jn. 5:39-40, Lk. 24:27, 44, 1 Cor. 2:2, 2 Tim. 4:15)

Baptism points us to the Gospel as a sign of. . .

- The _____ of our trust in Christ.
- Our _____ from sin.
- Our spiritual _____ with Christ.

The Lord's Supper points us to the Gospel as a sign of. . .

- Our continuing _____ and _____ in Christ.
- Christ's _____ in our place.
- Our need for and Christ's provision of spiritual _____.
- Our _____ with one another.

III. _____ Practices

These three practices, as they point us to God's grace in the Gospel, should _____ us, _____ and _____ our hearts, and _____ us to love and good deeds.

What We Believe & Teach about Preaching, Baptism & the Lord's Supper

1 Peter 1:22-2:10
Doctrine Matters
July 24, 2011

We recognize the proclamation of God's Word, baptism and the Lord's Supper as means whereby the Gospel is consistently communicated and experienced by God's people in the local church.

Proclamation of God's Word: We believe the proclamation of God's living Word occupies a central place in the life of God's people living together in the local church. The Scriptures are God's self-revelation climaxing in the Gospel, the person and work of Jesus Christ. We believe the accurate, passionate, continual proclamation of the Gospel is vital and effective for the salvation of unbelievers, but also the ongoing growth of believers. Through the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word by its elder-pastors and others, those who have not yet trusted the Gospel are welcomed and challenged to repent and trust Jesus Christ. Likewise, through the preaching and teaching of God's Word, God's people are nourished and equipped to proclaim and live the Gospel together with one another, the surrounding community and the nations.

Baptism: We believe water baptism is the command of Christ for all those who trust the Gospel. Baptism is not a saving work, but an expression of faith. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward spiritual reality, a visual picture of a believer's union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

The Lord's Supper: We believe the Lord's Supper is to be enjoyed regularly by all those who trust the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the giving of Christ's body and the shedding of Christ's blood on our behalf. As we partake of the Lord's Supper together by faith, we remember and proclaim Christ's death, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, grow in grace, are encouraged in hope, and signify our unity with other members of the family of God.

Questions for Family Study, Self Study & Contemplation . . .

1. *Make a list of the many different practices which define and give shape to local church life?*

2. *Why is Matthew 28:18-20 so significant in establishing the priority/centrality of preaching, baptism and the Lord's Supper?*

3. *Look up some of the verses corresponding to each practice under point one in the outline making note of the Scriptural support for our engagement in each practice.*

4. *Of all the things we do, why are these 3 (preaching , baptism and the Lord's Supper) special and uniquely significant?*

5. *How does (or should) the proclamation of God's Word point us to and nourish us with the Gospel?*

6. *How does (or should) baptism point us to and nourish us with the Gospel?*

7. *How does (or should) the Lord's Supper point us to and nourish us with the Gospel?*

8. *Why do you think God gives us visual symbolic ways to experience the Gospel?*