

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: Briefly share about the most amazing experience you have had this summer?

1. In your own words, what are the four things that Pastor David drew from this text about baptism?
 1. Who, Why, How, When...
2. When were you baptized and did your baptism conform to this teaching? If not, where did it differ?
 1. If you have not been baptized, what would keep you from it?
3. The Holy Spirit was at work in this account that Luke records. What amazing things did God do in this situation that would not be normative, or expected, today? See vv 26 and 39.
 1. In what way might v 29 still be likely to happen today?
 1. Now discuss what level of confidence you can have in such leading as it compares with our confidence in God's word? See 1 John 4:1, Gal 1:8.
4. This passage is about God working by his Spirit, through his word, to bring hope and salvation to those who are far off and separated from God.
 1. Identify the places in this passage where you find evidence that establish each part of the statement above?
5. Do you sense a similar call of God to take the gospel, contained in his word, to others around you who are currently outsiders and separated from God? Maybe even people that are not like you? Explain...

"Believers' Baptism"**Acts 8:26-40**

August 23, 2015

I. What does the Bible teach about baptism?

- A. To be eligible for baptism a person must have already placed their faith in Jesus Christ. (vv 32-26; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 8:12)
- B. We should be baptized for the right reasons. (v 36)
 - 1. Baptism demonstrates our obedience to Christ. (Matt 28:19; John 14:15; Acts 10:47-48; Mark 1:9)
 - 2. Baptism identifies us with Christ. (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12)
- C. We should practice the biblical method of baptism. (v 36-38)
 - 1. The Greek word "baptize" means "to immerse."
 - 2. Immersion baptism is the teaching of the New Testament. (vv 8:37-38; Mark 1:5; Mark 1:9; John 3:23)
 - 3. Immersion symbolizes our union with Christ. (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12)
- D. We should be baptized soon after conversion as the first step of obedience.

II. What does this text teach about the leading of the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Holy Spirit worked in the apostolic age in ways that are not normative since the completion of the Bible.
 - 1. He can work miracles for His own purposes.
 - 2. He typically does not work miracles because we have the validation need in the completed Bible.
- B. The Holy Spirit is distinctively at working in our lives to guide us in God's will. (John 16:13)

III. What does this text teach us about the hope offered to every reader?

- A. Christ's work on the cross atoned for the sins of every person who will believe the gospel. (Isa 52:13-53:12)
- B. The Ethiopian was a foreigner and a eunuch – distant and unacceptable in the house of Israel. (Deut 23:1)
- C. Christ's work on the cross brought God's promises to the Gentiles. (vv 32-35; Matt 27:51)
- D. The Ethiopian was made acceptable in Christ. (vv 32-36; Isa 56:1-7)