

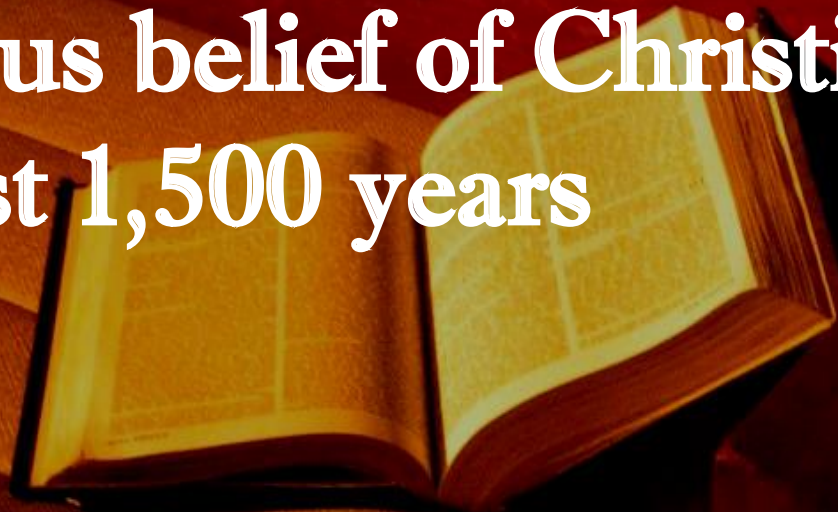
CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE



Special Sermon Series at Crosstown

• **A Little Help from History**

– The belief that baptism is necessary for salvation was the unanimous belief of Christianity for its first 1,500 years



Nicene Creed

- What is a creed?
 - a statement of beliefs
- What is the Nicene Creed?
 - Formulated in 325 A.D
 - One of the earliest statements of faith of what early Christians believed



Nicene Creed

- I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.
- Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;

Nicene Creed

- And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.
- And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

Nicene Creed

• And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. **I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins**; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Small Catechism

by Dr. Martin Luther

- **Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.**
- **Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and promises of God declare.**

The Small Catechism

- **It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism; but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says, Titus 3:5-8.....**

The Small Catechism

What does such baptizing with water mean?

- **Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

**What is the origin of the
abandonment in the belief
that baptism is necessary for
salvation?**



Huldreich Zwingli

“In this matter of baptism — if I may be pardoned for saying it — I can only conclude that all the doctors have been in error from the time of the apostles. . . . All the doctors have ascribed to the water a power which it does not have and the holy apostles did not teach. The Fathers were in error because they thought that the water itself effects cleansing and salvation.”



Huldreich Zwingli



-Zwingli taught baptism is simply

A sign that one belongs to God's

New covenant community, the church

-His view was adopted by another influential Reformer named John Calvin.

-Most denominations that emerged from the

Protestant Reformation still reject the idea

that baptism is for the forgiveness of sin.

-It really all goes back to Zwingli

• Baptism and Salvation: A Clear Connection

- Why do we believe that baptism is necessary for salvation?
- It is the most natural and straight forward meaning of the NT passages.

Acts 2:38

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 22:16

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

Matthew 28:19-20

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

Mark 16:15-16

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who had disbelieved shall be condemned.”

Romans 6:3-4

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Galatians 3:26-27

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothes yourselves with Christ.”

Colossians 2:11-13

And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.”

1 Peter 3:21

And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

• Baptism and Salvation: A Clear Connection

- Why did the every Bible teacher for the first 1500 years of Christian history believe that baptism is necessary for salvation?”
- They believed it because the most natural, most straightforward meaning of so many N.T. passages link baptism and salvation together.

Next Lesson:

“But doesn’t the Bible teach that we’re saved by faith alone? If it does, then nothing else is necessary—including baptism.”

CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE



Special Sermon Series at Crosstown