

Christ – Baptized with Water and the Spirit

January 10, 2016

Luke 3:21-22 - “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased.”

The Christmas tree is taken down, the nativity sets in the windows and basement are taken down. There is still a small remnant of Christmas with the poinsettias and the banners. The gifts that you received for Christmas might already have dead batteries or be packed away in a closet. The Christmas letters and cards filed away, either in a box or in the trash.

How quickly time goes. As quickly as the Christmas songs began on the radio, they have stopped until next year. Oh how the time keeps moving forward!

We worshiped and celebrated the Christ Child lying in the manger in Bethlehem. We heard how angels announced the Birth of Jesus, and the Shepherds came and saw the Christ Child – Then followed the Circumcision of Jesus – Old Man Simeon sang his song and Anna the aged woman who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem – Mary and Joseph moved to a house in Bethlehem – The MAGI from the East came to worship Him – Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt – And then moved back to Nazareth – Then we saw Jesus at the age of 12 in the temple.

Eighteen years have passed and now Jesus appears in Judea at the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist.

There are many years of silence in the life of Jesus, yet the time, the years kept on moving forward for the life of Jesus on this earth.

We are told in Scripture that John the Baptist and Jesus are related. (Luke 1:36)

How well did John the Baptist know Jesus? Had they played together for family gatherings? From what John the Baptist said, it indicates that John had an inclination that Jesus was the Messiah, the Promised Savior, as he said to Jesus before the Baptism took place. **“I need to be baptized by You, and do you come to me?”** (Matthew 3:14)

Yet on the other hand we also hear John the Baptist say: **“I would not have known Him, except that The One Who sent me to baptize with water told me, - ‘The Man on Whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.’** (John 1:33-34)

John the Baptist protested about baptizing Jesus.

To John’s protests Jesus simply says: **“Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

Perhaps we struggle with putting our minds around what this means, so in order to help we can look at other parts of Scripture such as:

Isaiah 53:12 & Luke 22:37 – “He was numbered with the transgressors.”

We also look at:

II Corinthians 5:21 – God made Him Who had NO SIN, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

In other words, In the Baptism of Jesus We see Him Humbling Himself, to our level, and yet He was without Sin.

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In other words, Jesus did not separate Himself from sinners, but identified with them and became sin for us, to save us from sin, death, and hell and the power of Satan.

It is then in our Baptism that we become connected to Christ.

Baptism is all Gospel, All God News, All God's Grace working in us and for us.

As The Apostle Peter so clearly proclaimed on that 1st Pentecost Sunday, **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**
(Acts 2:38-39)

In Our Baptism, all these things happen at once, in an instant and in a moment.

We are brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ – We are forgiven as we are then covered with the Righteousness of Christ – And the Holy Spirit enters our heart. And this is for You and Your Children!

So what is the date of Your baptism?

Do you know, have you looked it up?

We often celebrate the day of our birth into this world, why not celebrate the date of your Spiritual birth into the Kingdom of God?

With the Baptism of Jesus is the beginning of the PUBLIC ministry of Jesus.

Yet even before His baptism, Jesus was active in His ministry and purpose in this world.

He lived perfectly before His baptism and after.

In His Baptism it is clearly and loudly and visually announced that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One – the Messiah Who has been set apart for one purpose and one purpose alone.

That Purpose is to save us from sin for a life of service here and now and forever in Heaven.

Vs. 21 – When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened

Vs. 22 – and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased. AMEN