

Mid-Atlantic Gospel Camp

Week 5 – Synopsis and Burden to Impart Regarding Baptism

Burden to Impart:

Baptism is not only a public testimony that we give before men of our repentance and faith in Christ, it is God's way to deliver us from His enemy, Satan, and Satan's evil kingdom of darkness. Baptism is the means by which we are transferred out of Satan's authority of darkness into the kingdom of God (John 3:5; Col. 1:13).

John 3:5 – Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13 – Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Mark 16:16 – He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned.

- A. We need to be saved from the world not only because it is crooked and perverted (Phil. 2:15; Acts 2:40), but because it is the kingdom of God's wicked enemy, Satan. Satan is the one who is behind the world, operating everything and controlling everyone who is not saved (Eph. 2:2). The world system is Satan's masterpiece, designed to keep men from God.
- B. Because Satan is the one hidden behind the world and ruling it, he is called the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31). Because Satan is the one who receives the glory and worship from the world he is called the "god of this age (world)" (2 Cor. 4:4).
- C. This is the reason that although God loves all the individual people in the world and desires to save them, He has judged and condemned both the world as well as the ruler of the world (John 12:31).
- D. By baptism we are delivered out of the authority of darkness (Satan's world) and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of His love (God's kingdom) (Col. 1:13).
- E. The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be "born of water and the Spirit" in order to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). We are born of water and the Spirit by believing and being baptized (Mark 16:16). Thus, God's way to deliver us from the judged Satan-ruled world is by baptism. Baptism is also the means by which God transfers us into His kingdom, the kingdom of the Son of His love.
- F. An Old Testament type of this aspect of baptism is the Crossing of the Red Sea by the children of Israel (1 Cor. 10:2). By crossing the Red Sea they were saved and separated from the slavery of Egypt as well as from their enemy, the pursuing armies of Egypt.
- G. Regeneration and baptism are like walking. Regeneration is taking a step with your right foot. Baptism is taking a step with your left foot. If you are only regenerated, you have only taken half a step. You need baptism to complete your salvation from the world and come into the Kingdom of God.

Discussion:

- 1) When we are born, who's kingdom are we born into?
- 2) Why isn't it enough just to believe into the Lord in your heart and confess with your mouth?
- 3) Could the Israelites fulfill God's goal for them if they stayed in Egypt? Can you fulfill God's goal for you if you are not baptized?