

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Theme Unit: Enduring Beliefs of the Church

Unit III: The Church and Its Teachings

Subject: Outer Expressions of Inner Truths

Printed Text: Matthew 3: 13-17; 28: 19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29

Key verse: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the SON, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28: 19-20, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) **Baptism: Commitment to Mission (Matthew 3: 13-17; 28: 19-20)**
- 2) **The LORD'S Supper: Commitment to Remember (1 Corinthians 11: 23-29)**

Introduction:

Human beings make plans and carry out rituals which are traditions of gestures, words, action, or treasured items that are woven into their everyday lives. This kind of rituals or traditions deeply shapes how human beings live, and guide their relationships, and color the cultures where they appear. These rituals or traditions meet basic human beings needs; giving them a sense of life's meaning, and creates a sense of belonging and trust, steadying emotions during difficult time, or changes. Now, thank GOD for HIS ordinance; HIS authoritative order, HIS decree, HIS law for HIS people to follow and obey. So as believers, our spiritual rituals are ordinances and not rituals; these ordinances serve our basic needs, and gives life meanings to us believers, and helps us to meet our goals set by GOD through HIS SON Jesus Christ. In the Old testament, GOD chose Israel to be HIS covenant people, HE (GOD) gave them ordinances to help keep a strong bond with HIM (GOD), and taught them how to worship correctly (in Spirit and in Truth), GOD set the people of Israel apart as a holy nation devoted to HIM (GOD) the One and only true GOD; and GOD tighten the people of Israel ties with each other. Now in the New Testament Jesus Christ who is GOD, instituted two sacred ordinances, baptism and the LORD'S Supper; specifically for HIS church; and they are not rituals. These ordinances are not merely symbolic acts; they are vital to the church's mission and witness to GOD'S redemptive purpose. Baptism and the LORD'S Supper proclaims the Gospel message, and affirm the believers identity and unity in Jesus Christ, and set the believers apart from the world as a distinctive community of faith in Jesus Christ. When believers participates in these two sacred ordinances of Jesus Christ, we (believers) shows that we proclaim the Gospel, and advance GOD'S Kingdom, by showing unity, and distinctiveness that define the church as Jesus Christ redeemed people in a watching world.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **Baptism: Commitment to Mission (Matthew 3: 13-17; 28: 19-20)**

Baptism is the first ordinance that Jesus Christ gave to HIS disciples. Now Matthew, after describing how John the Baptist's ministry fulfilled prophecy as Jesus Christ's predecessor; Matthew shifts to Jesus and John, saying, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him (Matthew 3: 13). Now, Jesus Christ who was without sin, needed no need to repent; being that John the Baptist was a call for people to repent from sin; So John tried to stop Jesus, by, saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me (Matthew 3: 14)?" But

Jesus, answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him (Matthew 3: 15). And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of GOD descending like a dove, and lighting upon him (Matthew 3: 16): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3: 17). Jesus Christ commitment to the Mission of GOD the FATHER was to be Baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus Christ making HIS disciples for all nations, telling them to go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28: 19): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28: 20). Commitment to the Mission of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **The LORD'S Supper: Commitment to Remember (1 Corinthians 11: 23-29)**

The LORD'S Supper is the second ordinance that Jesus Christ gave to HIS disciples. Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthian church to address several critical issues among the believers and members, who were struggling with division, immorality, and confusion regarding spiritual practices. One of the issues was the misuse of the LORD'S Supper. Rather than honoring the second ordinance with reverence and unity; some believers and members of the Corinthian church treated the LORD'S Supper as something casual, which resulted in division and harm within the larger faith community. So, Paul, in order to correct this, reminded them of the LORD'S Supper origin and purpose, its seriousness and spiritual significance. Saying, "For I have received of the LORD that which also I delivered unto you, that the LORD Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread (1 Corinthians 11: 23): The bread symbolizes Jesus Christ's Body; and when Jesus Christ had given thanks, Jesus Christ brake the bread, and said, unto HIS disciples, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me (1 Corinthians 11: 24). And after the same manner, Jesus Christ took the cup, which symbolizes Jesus Christ's blood; when Jesus Christ had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me (1 Corinthians 11: 25). Why, because as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the LORD'S death till he come (1 Corinthians 11: 26). So, do know (warning), that, wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the LORD, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the LORD (1 Corinthians 11: 27). Therefore, one must examine himself before taking the LORD'S Supper. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup (1 Corinthians 11: 28). Why examine one self, for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the LORD'S body (1 Corinthians 11: 29). Now, when taking the LORD'S Supper we as believers of Jesus Christ has a commitment to remember Jesus Christ's birth, death, resurrection, ascension, and HIS coming again. Do know that your outer expression shows what is your Inner Truth.

Outer Expression of Inner Truths!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) **Jesus Christ commanded the ordinances of Baptism and the LORD'S Supper.**
- 2) **Jesus Christ instructed HIS disciples to observe ordinances of baptism and the LORD'S Supper until HE returns.**
- 3) **Believers are to reverence these two ordinances with a heartfelt gratitude that prioritizes the life mission of the church.**
- 4) **These two ordinances serve as outward expression of inward truth.**
- 5) **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**