



Lesson 4: Ordinances

8/30/15

INTRODUCTION

In their book *The Deliberate Church* Mark Dever and Paul Alexander write, “Often as evangelicals the thing we emphasize most about the ordinances is that they’re not necessary for salvation. Beyond this, we are sometimes reticent to put forward a positive view of the role of the ordinances. So what is the place of the ordinances in the local church, and how do they contribute to its corporate health and holiness?” (105)

Two Ordinances:

- **Baptism**
- **Lord’s Supper**

IDENTIFYING WITH CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM

Water baptism has been described as “an outward symbol of an inward reality.”

A. SPIRITUAL BAPTISM – Romans 6:1-7

1. **Baptized into His death**
2. **Raised to Walk a New Life**

B. PHYSICAL BAPTISM

Question: Why is it so important to be baptized if it doesn’t save me?

1. **Commanded by Christ – Matthew 28:19-20**
2. **Connected with Christ – Acts 2:38, 41**

“Baptism, then, is the ordinance that guards the front door of the church. It ensures, as far as externally possible, that those who become members of our churches really are members of the New Covenant, complete with new hearts” (105). *The Deliberate Church*

REMEMBERING CHRIST BY THE LORD’S SUPPER

In Luke 22:7-20, we see that the context in which Christ and the disciples would partake of the Lord’s Supper was during the time of the Passover. Christ was about to give His life as the Perfect Lamb to be slain for the sins of the world.

A. THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER – Luke 22:7-20

1. Context – The Passover

2. Two Elements:

- a. **Bread: was broken as a symbol of Christ’s broken body.**
- b. **Cup: symbolized the pouring out of Christ’s blood for believers.**

B. THE INSTRUCTION FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER

Wiersbe in “The Bible Exposition Commentary” outlines this passage into four main points.

1. **We look back (vv. 23-26a)**
2. **We look ahead (v. 26b)**
3. **We look within (vv. 27-28, 31-32)**
4. **We look around (vv. 33-34)**

CONCLUSION

Both ordinances are meant to symbolize those who are members of the church. Baptism provides the initial step in discipleship, identifying you as a follower of Christ and a member of His body. The Lord’s Supper provides an avenue for unity and fellowship among the local church. It also identifies those who are committed to the truth and those who are not.