BAPTISM -- ITS UNIQUENESS AND ITS DIGNITY

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INTRODUCTION
1. Baptism in this day and age is discussed from every conceivable standpoint.
2. Yet, this time I would like to approach it from two standpoints that are not often discussed.
3. And, as always, I will endeavor to approach it from the position that "Let God be found true, and every man a liar."
4. I would like to discuss baptism from the standpoint of its UNIQUENESS and its DIGNITY.

I. THE UNIQUENESS OF BAPTISM
1. UNIQUENESS means: being without a like or equal. This is certainly a good description of BAPTISM.
2. BAPTISM is UNIQUE in that it is done ONLY ONCE.
   (1) We contribute every Lord's Day -- I Cor. 16:1 - 2
   (2) We partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week -- Acts 20:7
   (3) We pray without ceasing -- I Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1
   (4) We are to sing often -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13
   (5) But, there is but ONE scriptural BAPTISM -- Eph. 4:5
      1. The act of Baptism is performed only ONCE -- Rom. 6: 3 , 4
      (1) One action -- Col. 3:12; one design- -- Mk. 16:16; one authority -- Acts 2:33; One element - water -- Acts 8:36; Acts 10:47; Heb. 10:22
3. It is UNIQUE in that there are no DEGREES of it:
   (1) There are degrees of faith:
      1. Little -- Matt. 6:30
      2. Dead -- James 2:17
      3. Great -- Matt. 8:10
      4. Weak -- Rom. 14:1; 15:1
      5. Strong -- Rom. 4:20
      7. Perfect -- James 2:22
   (2) There are no degrees of Baptism; you have either been baptized, or you have not been baptized -- Acts 19:1- 4.
4. Baptism is UNIQUE in that it is OBJECTED TO MORE than anything else.
   (1) It seems that repentance would be an unpopular doctrine.
   (2) Or, giving time and money.
   (3) Or, living a clean, upright life.
   (4) But, mention Baptism and you start an argument:
      1. "Not essential to salvation" -- Mk. 16:16; Acts 238; I Pet. 3:21; Col. 2: 11 - 12
      2. "It doesn't matter how you are baptized" -- Rom. 6:3 - 4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8 : 35 - 39.

II. AS BAPTISM IS UNIQUE, IT ALSO HAS GREAT DIGNITY
1. DIGNITY means: the quality of being esteemed; grandeur; worth.
2. This is seen by noticing those who engage in it.
   (2) Three thousand souls on Pentecost -- Acts 2:41.
(5) The best on earth NOW submit to Baptism!

3. What is SAID about it adds to its Dignity:
   (1) Christ is given all authority -- Matt. 28:18 -- then He commands it -- Matt. 28:19 - 20.
   (2) The emphasis given it:
       2. It is among the last things Jesus said do.

4. The company it keeps shows its Dignity -- Eph. 4:1-7.

5. What is accomplished by it shows its Dignity:
   (1) It is the final act that puts us into the church, or body -- I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; John 3:5.
   (2) By it we are Saved -- Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21.
   (3) It brings us to the Blood of Christ -- Matt. 26:28; Rom. 6:3-4.

III. AS BAPTISM IS UNIQUE AND DIGNIFIED, IT IS ALSO INESCAPABLE
   1. If you please God, you must obey -- Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9.

CONCLUSION
1. Have you obeyed your Lord in Baptism?
2. If not, won't you come as we stand and sing?

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