INFANT BAPTISM

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Many religious people believe in infant baptism today.
2. John Wesley tells us why men started infant baptism in *Doctrinal Tracts*, pg. 251: "As to the grounds of it: If infants are guilty of original sin, then they are proper subjects of baptism; seeing in the ordinary way they cannot be saved unless this be washed away by baptism."
3. Because of this doctrine, many have been sprinkled when they were babies and they think they have been baptized.

I. PERquisites of Baptism

1. There must be **teaching** -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20
2. There must be **faith** -- Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6
3. **Repentance** must precede baptism -- Acts 2:38; 17:30
4. **Confession** -- Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10

II. Baptism Must Be the Right Action - Baptism is One Action - A Burial

1. The meaning of the term "baptism":
   (1) The word "**baptisma**" -- baptism is not a translation but a transliteration, that is, it is carried over into the English with the Greek ending dropped and an English ending added.
   (2) "**Baptisma**" means: Constituting of the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence (from *bapte*, to dip) *Vine*

2. The circumstances surrounding the action of baptism:
   (1) Baptism of Jesus -- Mark 1: 4 - 10; Matt. 3: 13 - 17
   (2) Baptism of the eunuch -- Acts 8: 36 - 39

3. The description of the action:
   (1) Heb. 10:22 -- "**Our bodies washed with pure water**"
   (2) Eph. 5:26 -- "**The washing of water**"
   (3) Tit. 3:5 -- "**The washing of regeneration**"
   (4) Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
   (5) A birth -- John 3:5

III. Baptism Must Be for the Right Purpose - Baptism is One in Purpose or Design

1. The design of baptism is the salvation of the soul of man.
3. Infants are without sin.
IV. THE GREAT COMMISSION EXCLUDES INFANTS


2. The subject for baptism must first be taught the gospel.

3. The subject must believe.

4. The subject must repent.

5. Those baptized must be taught to "observe all things" that Christ taught or commanded.
   (1) Infants cannot pray with ceasing -- I Thess. 5:17
   (2) Infants cannot partake of the Lord's Supper -- I Cor. 11: 25 - 34
   (3) Infants cannot visit the fatherless and widows -- James 1:27
   (4) Infants cannot sing -- Col. 3:16

V. INFANT BAPTISM WAS NOT PRACTICED BY THE APOSTLES AND EARLY EVANGELISTS IN NEW TESTAMENT DAYS.

1. The three thousand on the day of Pentecost -- Acts 2: 22 - 42
   (1) They were guilty of sin -- Acts 2: 23, 36
   (2) They heard the message -- Acts 2:37
   (3) They were commanded to repent and be baptized for remission of sins -- Acts 2:38

2. The Samaritans -- Acts 8:12
   (1) No infants baptized here.

3. Cornelius and his house -- Acts 10
   (1) Old enough to fear God -- Acts 10: 2
   (2) They heard the word -- Acts 10:44
   (3) Commanded to be baptized -- Acts 10:48

4. Lydia and her household -- Acts 16: 14 - 15, 40
   (1) There is no evidence that Lydia was a married woman, or that she had any small children.
   (2) The great commission excluded children -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20

5. The Jailer and his house -- Acts 16: 29 - 34
   (1) All in his house were big enough to believe -- Acts 16:34

CONCLUSION

1. Baptism is for sinners -- Acts 2:38