

The Sign of the King

2024.11.17 Morning Sermon in **Matthew 28:16–20**

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Main idea: baptism marks us as members of the visible church, commands us to be members of the invisible church, and points us to Christ as our sure hope for this.

Introduction: worshiping Christ but doubting... Who am I? What am I supposed to do? How can I do it? Christ, as King, is the answer, and He gives baptism as a sign of this.

1. **Who am I? A church member.**

1. In His authority in heaven and earth, Christ establishes His church.
2. Whomever Christ adds to His church is to be marked by the Master, sealed by the Savior, as collected by the King.
3. Whomever Christ adds to His church is to be taught to keep all that He has commanded.
4. The first part of this command, for our life on earth, is that “church member” is even more at the core of our identity than “son” or “daughter.”

2. **What am I supposed to do? Everything that Christ has commanded.**

1. His decretal will (His plan, His hidden will), we find out by providence. It is good and perfect and pleasing, but not under our authority.
2. His prescriptive will (“all things that I have commanded you,” His revealed will), we find out from Scripture. This is what we are to keep. This is what we are to focus upon.
3. The first great thing that He has commanded is that we would repent and believe, that we would be converted and believe into the Lord Jesus Christ. All other obedience will fail until this has been kept.
4. Members of His visible church are not taught that they are automatically members of His invisible church, or that they are automatically elect, but rather that they must repent and believe the gospel.

3. **How can I do it? Christ’s power and presence.**

1. Christ’s power. Baptism points us to a resurrected, ascended, enthroned, Spirit-pouring Christ. Baptism points us to that the Spirit as the One Who comes upon us and in us and continually applies Christ to us. Baptism

points us to once-shed blood that we must continually/repeatedly apply to our conscience.

2. Christ's presence. "lo" is a command to "behold." We are to give thoughtful consideration to the fact that Christ is with us. The promise was given to the apostles for their baptizing and teaching, as it continues to be given to elders today for their baptizing and teaching. But it is also given to the disciples who are made by that baptizing and teaching: Christ in their baptism, and Christ in their being taught, enables and sustains their obedience.

Conclusion: a passive, early sign for worshipers of Christ that are still plagued by doubt. Who are you? A church member. What are you supposed to do? Everything that Christ has commanded. How can you do it? By Christ's power and presence.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew chapter 28. Verses 16 through 20. These are God's words. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee to the mountain, which Jesus had appointed for them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him. But some doubt it. And Jesus came and spoke to them saying. All authority has been given to me in heaven and on Earth.

Go, therefore and Make Disciples of the all the nations. Baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And lo I am with you always. Even to the end of the age.

Amen. Amen. God sends this reading of God's inspired and inerrant authoritative sufficient. Effectual word, please be seated.

Some of Thomas's reputation is undeserved as if there were 10 solidly strongly believing disciples and just the Who doubt it? Uh, indeed Thomas, if you remember from John 11, was the one who among the disciples who were afraid to go up to Jerusalem when Lazarus was sick. Told the rest of the disciples.

Let's go up there and die with Jesus. And one of the things that we need to get this correct. One of the reasons we need this to get this correct is because many of us are those whose worship is often mixed with some doubting. Uh, with some doubt about the greatness and glory of Christ, and we wouldn't say that out loud in our hearts.

We don't believe that in if we were to ask ourselves who is Jesus and and what has he done? But we live, don't we with Some confusion. Some doubt. Some lack of clarity. About who we are. Perhaps it's not even that we live with lack of clarity about who we are.

But that the answer that we have for that question in our heart and our mind is often, uh, colored more by other things than by who Jesus is and what he has done for us and to us. And what he has said about us, We wonder who we are.

We wonder what am I supposed to do? As those who live in a time in which and a place in which Believers really have a lot more Liberty, we have a lot more discretion as to what we are going to do with our lives. You know what vocation, we might pursue or whom we might marry or where we might live.

Things that for the great majority of Christians throughout the history of the church have been answered for them by others. And we focus so much. Upon the things that belong to the hidden will of God, his Providence, his eternal decree within himself. And so he asked this question and we live in this puzzling.

What am I supposed to do? As if it were for us to come up with the things that God has hidden rather than to obey, The things that God has revealed. Who am I and what am I supposed to do? And then when we come up with, What am I supposed to do?

Whether it is that which is directly commanded by his word or that, which is That which we infer we deduce, we conclude Uh by not only biblical command but also scriptural, wisdom and scriptural priorities. So that so that we interpret God's Providence and our situation and our life and his design of each different, one of us and we come to conclusions.

But pursuing either one of those once we have the what to do. There's the how How can I do it? That's difficult enough when it's, uh, how can I pursue what I've concluded as a wise calling, and as a decision, a scripture, informed decision that I have made. But the degree of difficulty gets turned up to Infinity.

When it's obedience to his commands. And we realized that obedience with his to, his commands is to be with all the heart. Out of love and thankfulness. How can we do that? And so, we We too our doubters, aren't we? The answer to all of those things is found rather easily in who Jesus Christ is?

His identity as God who became, man for us his office. His role that he took upon himself to be Our Redeemer to be our mediator. As the one who has redeemed us, not just from sin so that we could be whatever we want to be. But for himself. That we might be his and belong to him, the answer to the how question, of course.

Must be in our Lord. Jesus Christ to whom all authority belongs to whom all power belongs. So that if we are to have any power at all, it must be derived from him. From him as God, over all the creatures and the power to live a Christian Life. So we'll think about more In the afternoon and in Romans chapter 6, Is still from him as the one to whom we have been United into whom his Spirit puts us by faith.

And not just his power, but his presence with us. His presence with us by his holy, He gives not to be not only to be with us. But having given him to be with us and to make us alive so that we believe into him because we are children adopted in Christ.

God sends the spirit of his son into our hearts, the Lord Jesus who pours out his Sends his Spirit into our hearts. By whom we cry, Abba Father. And who applies Christ to us. And so, when the 11, Have gone away into Galilee to the mountain, which Jesus had appointed for them.

This is not Bethany. This is not the Mount of Olives from which he will Ascend. There's a little bit of confusion about that because Mark skips some time In his account, but in the fullest account of the Ascension in Acts chapter 1, it tells us that they return from the Mount of Olives.

To Jerusalem and when he, when the Lord Jesus has ascended, he's sending them back, probably. To the mountain upon, which he had preached, that sermon that we just finished hearing not too long ago. Earlier in Matthew. Whichever Mountain it is it's in Galilee that's whom. He had told the uh, the women to tell his disciples whom.

He calls his Brethren. Verse 10 of this chapter do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee. There, they will see me. And so they come. And they're worshipping him. But some are doubting. And he answers their doubt, he answers their difficulty. He answers the question of their identity.

Who am I now? Who am I now? That Jesus Christ has died and risen and is about to leave and what are we to do now? That our Master, our teacher whom we have been with these three years has not just died and risen and praise God. He has risen but is about to leave.

And even more than that. Not just who am I? And who are we and what should we do now? But how? Are we supposed to do it? When our Master, Our Redeemer. Our Lord and our God as Thomas fell on his feet. Fell on his face and confessed when Jesus invited him to put The fingers his hand and his side, and the fingers in his palm.

How are we to do it? When he has left. It's a very similar situation. To that in which Abraham finds himself the beginning of Genesis 17. Abraham has been at least as far as We read in the Book of Genesis. On his own for a while. At that point, you remember the chapter divisions.

Are artificial or introduced. And so it's just in consecutive verses and consecutive thoughts. When it says that Abraham or Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born the last verse of Genesis 16 and then first verse of Genesis 17 when Abram was 99 years old, What are you just coming out of in chapter 16?

Well. Abram buckling to his wife's complaint and complying, with his wife's plan and taking now, one who is not his wife. One who had been a maidservant to a female slave in the house as a second, wife and committing adultery. With her and having a child of of adultery, And Ishmael now being 13 years old and his character, having solidified and formed of whom other, scripture tells us that he was a wild donkey of a man.

And you who are fathers, can imagine What it was like for Abram. And those 13 years of Silence, he's already a Believer that had taken place in chapter 15 when Christ was promised and he had believed God, and it was counted for him as righteousness, but he was a believer who had sinned greatly and who had been living now with the consequences of that sin for 13 years and God appears to him and says, I am God Almighty,

And you know what it's like. When you have been backslidden or when you've been trying to live by your own wits or or confused about doubting and not solid in your identity in the Lord and not living to obey his commands and not independence upon him and you, he brings you back somehow.

Maybe he gives you to have your devotions and suddenly he gives you life and the renewed life and the spirit comes and and the words leap off the page and penetrate your heart. Perhaps you come and you sit under the word preached. And you didn't realize this was going to be one of those sermons.

This was going to be one of those Lord's days. Where God would come by his word and say you, I mean, you and the Holy Spirit as we pray for him to do every week comes and he gives to each one of us that particular portion that he intends to apply to your, or my, or his, or her particular heart and he comes after a season of backsliding and he makes display of himself.

Again, you've heard so many sermons, you've LED so many family worships or participated in them. You've done so many devotionals and you have not been realizing and confronted by the fact that the one whose word we are reading or hearing or hearing preached or preaching is God Almighty Us tremble.

Like Luther. Would have previously trembled. When he hears about the power of God, Romans 1 16, because in it, the righteousness of God is revealed. But God, had come to Abraham or Abram. Is about to make him Abraham. Wasn't he, God had come to Abraham Abram to declare that he is.

God Almighty. Because it was by God's Almighty power. Is that Abram would walk before him? And be blameless. Just as Abram, he hears this whole thing. Ah, on his face and there's There's this. No indication that he stands except for that. The end of the speech, he falls on his face again.

Perhaps, he's been on his knees prostrated or perhaps, he, he further puts himself down On his face as he prays to God, and Remember. Uh, we just read, he prays for his son, his 13 year old son. The very thing that God had appeared to him. And said, I am, God Almighty walk before me and be blameless, and he prays for his son.

Oh, that Ishmael might live before you. There has not been an Ishmael, any indication that he could believe God, and be accounted righteous. And that he is walking before him, or living before him. And being blameless there certainly has not been anything in Abraham. The last 13 years that has been able to infuse into his son Faith or to Grant to his son, the, the ability to walk before God, but God who has just announced his Almighty power and God who has just commanded the putting of his sign, not just upon Abram.

But on his son, and Abram is encouraged by the sign. Not that Ishmael has been converted. In his house. The God Who is our only hope for having life? Our only hope for coming to Faith. Our only hope for living before him, or walking before him, or being blameless that this God would give those things to his son.

God, comes to Abram. In a moment of Doubt and a moment of weakness. And he refer reaffirms. His own identity. God reaffirms, his own identity to him and he gives him a sign. A sign that calls Abram to Faith. Doesn't replace. That was a great error of the Jews, this is why in Romans and Galatians the Apostle has to make the distinction remind them.

That he had that Faith years. Before he had that sign. Even as his son, Isaac. When he was born, the next year, would have the sign years before he had that f. Because the sign wasn't a substitute for Faith circumcision was not a new way by which to obtain the things promised or else it would be by works and not by promise.

The Apostle says, But circumcision was given to Abram. And this commission with the water baptism. That was introduced and commanded in. It was given to the eleven. Both. In a season of weakness and a season of Doubt to affirm to them, who God is the God who has now fully finally revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ.

So greatly that of the many times in many ways that he had spoken of before to the fathers, John chapter 1 would say no one has seen God at any time, but of these last days in which he has spoken to us by his son. Says, but his only begotten son, who is in the bosom of the father.

He has fully revealed him. And so, both to Abram in Genesis 17, and to the apostles here, In Matthew 28. God comes and he affirms who he is Christ comes and he affirms Who he is? All authority. Has been given to me. In heaven. And on. It is the equivalent, isn't it of God coming to Abram?

And saying, I am God Almighty. Walk before me. And be blameless. And your God comes to you, your creator comes to each one of you. And you who are members of his church, your king, the mediator. Your Prophet priest and King of the church, in the new, in the age of the Gospel, in the age of the spirit constituted.

Now not at Sinai, but at Pentecost in this administration of the Covenant of Grace, he comes to you and he says, I am God Almighty and for you who are believers, You're a redeemer. Your life. Your righteousness, your forgiveness. Your groom, the one of whose bride, you are a member, the one of whose body you are, a member he comes.

And he says, I am God Almighty. Walk before me, And be blameless. This ultimately is what is signified to In our baptisms. Three aspects of who Christ is unto us. Not lining up the three aspects and the three questions. But in all three aspects of who he is answering each of those three questions, Who am I?

What must I do? And how can I do it? Those are the three big things that Christ answers for his Apostles here. As he is remediating, providing the remedy For their doubting. Who am I? The answer is going to be a church member. If you are a member of his church, As soon, just, if you are, Saved.

If you are a Believer, if you believe in your heart and you confess with your mouth, if he has brought you into his church, You're a church member. And if he has brought you into his church and marked you as a church member, that is something that is at the core of your identity.

God is the one who assigns to us as Paul preaches to the Athenians, the areopagus in Acts 17 the times and the boundaries of our living. If he puts you in a household in his church, if you're not a stranger to the Commonwealth of Israel, if you're not an alien, if you're not outside the household of God, you're a church member And there is a Significance to that.

Even before even apart, from your being a Believer. There's a significance to that in Christ. Because his church now does not have a series of prophets and a series of high priests and a series of Kings. But Christ in his mediatorial prophethood and priesthood and kingship. Is Prophet priest and King to you as a part of his church.

Oh, Jesus. The first thing he says, Well, upon his authority now. That is not just Authority in heaven. Says, all authority has been given to me in heaven. We understand that. More. Don't we when we see his Ascension and not just that, he ascends into heaven, but that, when he's there, where is Jesus, where in heaven children is Jesus.

Is he with the elders and the living creatures? Is he with the innumerable multitude is he with the Holy Angels? Now, he's on the throne. He doesn't stand and worship. With everyone else. He takes his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high the right hand there, of course being Uh, not so much geographical but metaphorical.

He is the power of God. He is the son of the right hand. He is as it were in the center of the throne. Jesus has all authority in heaven. But how does that help these 11? When Jesus, ascends to heaven, are they going with him on that day?

In five or six weeks. We're not given the exact day upon, which Uh, this happens. Seems to be that when. Thomas sees him on that second. First day Sabbath that second Lord's day, that it's the first time that Thomas has seen him, he missed evening worship the first week, he wasn't with them.

You never know what you're going to miss when God, when Christ meets with his people meets. With them in his means. So, Five or six weeks later, when Jesus is ascending. Where are they? Disciples go with him. And so they need to hear. That Jesus doesn't just have all authority in heaven.

He has all authority on Earth. So, we can't. We can't be. No, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying it's necessarily. Wicked to use any of these words or to hold. But if you mean by pre-millennial Jesus doesn't yet have and exercise all authority on Earth, then your pre-millennialism is an error.

And if you mean, Uh, post-millennial That there is a time in which Jesus is Not going to have all authority in Heaven and Earth or that we haven't come yet into the time, but there will be a time. And then after that time, then there will be a return.

That. Jesus doesn't have all authority on Earth and you will be an heir. And if you mean by all Millennial, That there is no rain of Jesus Christ in, in the Then you are in great error. At least the others think there's going to be or has been But, Jesus Christ has Authority in the earth.

And this is what he is doing. In his authority right now. He is gathering to himself a church. He tells the 11 what they're going to do. They're going to be making disciples. The word goal is looks like an imperative, but it's actually a participle in the original going.

Going. In. Going therefore, make disciples. That's the command make there's going which is one of the things that is necessary in order to obey the command to make there is baptizing which is one of the things that is necessary in order to obey the command to make there is teaching which is one of the things that is necessary in order to obey the command to make Because ultimately, it's not the apostles who make Disciples.

They are given things that they do, you are given things that you do. Not, all of you are commanded to go. You're commanded to be salt and Light. And you're in God's Providence, if your husband or a father, or if you are a wife or a mother, there are many things that you are commanded to do first Timothy 2 celebrates.

Some of those things. If you are a man, you are commanded in, whatever place. You are to be one of those who lifts holy hands without wrath without doubting and leads in prayer. If you're a wife or a mother, Your part in God, bringing about his Plan of Redemption Plan of Salvation is in the bearing of these children, but not just in the bearing of the children.

But in your own life, in good works, in maintaining your own, uh, faith and love, and Holiness, but also, he gives to you as a mother with your child, a tremendous part As he uses you to bring your child to Faith to grow your child. In love to grow your child in Holiness.

But it's not men or women or boys or girls or disciples or Apostles. Who produced the disciples. It's Jesus. In all his authority in heaven. From where he pours out his spirit.

And it's Jesus in all his authority on Earth. In the ministry that each one of us has. And now the pastor teachers, not just the apostles but you remember there were also prophets and evangelists by whom. He brought those things that remained to be said by whom. Now we have a completed Bible.

Apostles, like Paul and Peter and John prophets like James and Jude who were not Apostles in the technical sense, but had been half-brothers of the Lord Jesus and evangelists like Mark and Luke you know, all Apostles were prophets and evangelists and Prophets. Were evangelists in particular. Uh because God used them to write gospels but also Pastor teachers.

Now those who are your elders And church members. Don't forget that Ephesians 4 teaches us that every joint supplies. Something every member has a share that we are all not just to learn the truth so that we're stabilized in our Doctrine. That we are to speak the truth to one another in love, and that it is by God's blessing upon all of this.

That the whole of the body grows up into the head, who is the Lord Jesus Christ? It is Jesus, who makes the disciples. But one of the things that he immediately makes clear is that the disciples are not just a loose Association of individuals with whom the world will be increasingly filled as more individuals are saved.

No. The disciples are gathered into a church. He is going to have a And this is the, the great significance of the surprise baptism. In verse 19. Why do we say or why? Did I just say that it's a surprise baptism? I say that because of something we've already heard preached is we've been going through, Matthew and Lord willing and sparing us will return to where we were in Matthew and continue in the series.

But you remember back in chapter 3, Where John is preaching, repentance preaching conversion. Have your mind. Changed or exchanged. Receive a new mind in the place of your current mind, repent. For the Kingdom of Heaven, as at hand, be ye converted for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand and he's baptizing those who are gathered to him.

And this was something that The disciples also. Although Jesus did not baptize with water during his Earth, Earthly Ministry, we read in the gospels also that his disciples baptize for those who were gathering who were becoming part of this new group and we know that the Pharisees also would baptize.

There was a washing ritual that was a sign of uh initiation. Didn't just use circumcision, since they were so excited about it and they were trying to compel even Christians to be circumcised. We hear famously answered. Uh in Acts 15 and Galatians and and other places and of and there was at this time other sects like the essenes at qumran who have become very famous now because of in the last 150 years ago because of the Dead Sea Scrolls and and they baptized This baptism.

This water baptism is an indication. That Jesus is not just saving individuals. But that he is gathering churches on the Earth. And it's a surprise because when John was baptizing with water, He proclaimed to the Pharisees and scribes that that baptism. Can't do anything for you because it's just with water.

But the one who is coming, after him wasn't going to baptize with water. Remember chapter 3 verse 11. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. So as a baptism that said, you need repentance. It's a baptism that couldn't make. You give you repentance, couldn't turn you from a stone into a child of Abraham.

I indeed baptize you with water into repentance, but he, who is coming. After me is mightier than I Whose sandals? I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy

That's the Christian baptism. The great Christian baptism. Now we heard Hebrews 6 last week, that one of the elementary Foundational doctrines of the churches, baptisms that there's more

than one, The great one. Is the baptism that Christ administers from Heaven by his Spirit? But there is a water baptism on Earth as well.

That is a Christian baptism because Christ has commanded it. And whenever he adds to his church, The king of the church, the priest of the church, the prophet of the Commands, that whoever is at it. Receive the sign. Of baptism. Some get added late in life. Abraham was 99 years old when he was at it.

That's because there wasn't a gathered church as a household. Until that day, he constitutes Abraham's house as a church with a sign for the, the church, which is his house Ishmael was 13 years old when he was circumcised. Isaac was eight days old. When he was circumcised. And there would be others who were brought in from outside purchased with money.

How much more glorious is? It that there are those who are brought in from outside now, not purchased with money. What are they purchased with children? How does someone who has not been part of the church become part of the household of God, the Commonwealth of Israel. Now, the Israel of God as the Apostle refers to his church.

Now, what are they purchased with to bring them in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? And of course, if God brings one from outside to inside, They must receive the sign as not circumcision anymore. What does Jesus say? The sign is? His baptism. Baptism is the sign that must be put.

Upon the member of the church. Now, I realize we must accelerate Whomever Christ adds to his church, is to be marked by the master of the To be sealed by the savior of the church because they have been collected. By the king of the Who are you? You're a church member, if you're a member of his church, that is a greater part, a greater component of your identity than anything else.

You're either male or female. There's only one of those two. You're one of those things. You're a son or a daughter? And maybe a bereaved son or a bereaved daughter. Whether by death or divorce or You might be a husband. You might be a father, you might be. A wife or a mother.

These are all aspects of your identity in the Providence of God. But above all of those even before we start to talk about salvation, If God has put you in his church, a core part of your identity in this world, as you're answering, who am I? Your baptism says.

A church member. Someone whom the Lord in his Providence. Has separated from the world and unto himself and he has given you privileges. That belong to being a member of his church, one of which you are enjoying. Now, That when the Sabbath comes, which is announced to Israel when you have the church constituted.

Uh, corporately in a new way at Sinai as a holy convocation, a calling together or a commanding together. That you are called to this assembly. And you are given. God himself in the preaching of his word and the reading of his word and the singing of his word and calling upon his name, not just in accordance with his word.

But through the mediation of his son, who is the priest who has offered the sacrifice that that consecrates, the worship that comes to God. And you have these privileges.

If you're a member of his church, A core part of your identity. Is that you are a church member and you have privileges as church members, you have obligations as church members. Was the first part. Um, sorry so not only are you A member of his church who must have the sign put upon you.

What one of the Privileges that you have, one of the obligations that you have is the privilege of being taught. Baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son and of the Holy spirit. God, who, of course, is Triune from all, from all eternity, having displayed this, most of all in the coming of his son, So that that is the name singular.

It's one name. In verse 19, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, it's not in the names of the father and the son and the Holy And so you are a member of the Church of the Triune God under the prophethood and priesthood and kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. But another privilege that you have is being taught to observe all that Christ has commanded being taught the whole Council of God.

If a church does not teach you the whole counsel of God, your blood is upon your head too. But as upon the heads of the Elders of that church, you remember Paul in Acts 20 saying I'm an innocent of the blood of all of you. For I have not declined to Proclaim to you, the whole counsel of God And so you have a To be taught, you have the privilege of being taught the whole counsel of God as a church member, but you have the obligation To come under that teaching.

To receive that teaching with a soft heart to keep that which is taught in all of the scripture. So, who are you? You're a church member. What are you to do? Well. The first part. Of the command. The first great thing that he has commanded is that you would repent and believe.

What are we supposed to do? We're supposed to do everything that Jesus has commanded. If we're talking about the will of Jesus Christ, remember that? Jesus is God and man. And as God, he has his hidden will. The secret things belong to our God, his plan. Has decree. So we call it the decretal will.

You are not supposed to try to figure out what Jesus's plan, what God's plan for your life is, Those things belong to God, we find out by Providence, what his plan is for our life. But what are we to do? According to Matthew 28, according to our passage, teaching them to observe, all things that I have commanded you His revealed will.

The revealed things belong to us and our children. So that we may do what? So that we may obey. All that he says. But you can't obey without life in Jesus Christ. And so, the first part of doing all that Christ has commanded, you is to repent and believe the gospel.

To come out of being in yourself and to believe into and come into the Lord, Jesus Christ to be his Your baptism makes you a church member but it doesn't make you a disciple. It doesn't make you a Believer. It your water baptism. Doesn't bring you into Jesus Christ.

It places you under obligation to keep all. That is commanded. And the only way to keep it. Is by his life in you. By his righteousness in you, This is why. Dear children. We don't just say, children obey your parents. We said children obey your parents. In the Lord.

Because the one who put you in his church, The one who put you in your Christian mom, or your Christian dad or praise God, if it's both your Christian parents home. The one who marked you as his, the one who says as it is, as long as you are in the household of one Christian parent, you are holy, he says That same God who has done all those things for you.

He calls and commands you. To turn from your sin to repent, not just from Wicked Works, but to realize that apart from Jesus, all your works are dead Works. We heard in Hebrews 6 last week, repentance from dead works. And to believe unto him. So that you'll be able to obey mom and dad.

And to honor your obey, your parents and honor your father and your mother. Because you're not going to be able to obey from the heart, are you? Out of love for God. Except by the Life of Christ. What am I? Who am I? I'm a church member. What am I supposed to do?

Everything that Christ has commanded? And that means, I have to repent and believe the gospel. Members of his visible. Members of the church on Earth and whatever congregation of which you are a member of in it. Are not to be taught that they are automatically. Uh, Believers are automatically able to obey But that they must repent and believe.

Being a member of Hopewell does not mean that you are elect. But that you must repent. And believe the gospel. What are you supposed to do? Everything. That Christ has commanded. Who am I a church member? What am I supposed to do everything that Christ commanded? How can you do it?

Well, not just by Christ's power that. Much is evident. And we've Considered it already at length. In comparing Jesus. All authority has been given to me in heaven and on Earth, with that, pre-incarnation appearance. I am God Almighty walk before me and be blameless. But he adds now that before me aspect doesn't he?

The end of verse And, Uh, we don't say that anymore. Low the parking lot. Uh, it's actually a an imperative verb. From seeing behold, I think we're more accustomed to. That we are to view. We are to consider Not just there's not just here, the promise that Jesus is with us, always even to the end of the Age.

But that if we are to keep all that he has commanded us or for the apostles, if they are to Faithfully baptize and teach all whom the Lord adds to his church, it is going to be by beholding, the fact, That Jesus is with us. That there is a commanded consideration of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He demands, our dependence. He is not just with us, he urges us to consider that he is with us to behold and look and be grateful and rest upon the fact that our God who became man to redeem Us by his blood because we could not atone for our sin, but he did that, he who is in heaven, is yet with us by his Spirit There's the water that is applied from the earth, but he applies his Spirit from Heaven.

He is the one who is with us by his Spirit. His Spirit applies him to us. So when we are baptized, when we are those who are baptized with water, and as you see, uh, Katie being baptized With water. One of the things that this will remind you of you who are baptized Is that it is pointing us again to our resurrected ascended, enthroned, Spirit, pouring Christ.

So that we will hope in the spirit as the one who has come upon us and has come to dwell in us to continually apply Christ to us. We're not using blood. It's not circumcision anymore. Because baptism. Points Us by way of water. To blood that was shed once for all.

So that there's not an application of new shed blood to every Christian and certainly not every time that you sin. But the once application of water to each of you reminds you that there was a once shedding of blood and that you can come over and over, you must come over and over again by faith in Jesus Christ to have your conscience sprinkled clean, by his blood.

To apply again, the redeeming shed blood of Christ to realize that you who have sinned. So greatly this week, And who are not worthy to come into the presence of God. And could have no hope of acceptance in yourself, or ability to walk before him and be blameless. That the blood of Christ is still effectual for you.

And you can come cleansed and you can come forgiven and your conscience can be free. And you know that you are. Welcome and that you know that if you belong to Christ by faith you are united to him in a way in which you are seated in the Heavenly places and can come through the veil even into the holy of holies in glory in the new and Living Way, that is his flesh.

And one of the things that he has given you to remind you to seal unto you, the the The genuineness of that. Is the washing of your body. With the pure water. Which only had to happen once for all. Because once you are in in Christ, you are clean.

Yes, you need like the disciples did to To have whatever remaining sin. Cling clings continuously washed away, until he has completed it, and you're glorified, But Peter didn't need his head in his hands.

So how can we keep all that Jesus has commanded by his power? By his presence. This was how the apostles could fulfill their Ministry and as they talked. Those whom the Lord was adding to his church to keep all that Christ had commanded. This was how all the members of the church.

Can come to Faith. All the members of the church can walk by faith.

Conclusion. You can see how the The sign itself points us away from ourselves into Christ. You are the apostles were to baptize. But none of us baptizes himself. You receive baptism. It has acted upon you. Eating and drinking. Those are active. You eat by faith. You drink by faith.

You're not baptized by faith. Baptism is done to you. And it is done for what ought to be the majority of the church in this day. Early. When you are unable to do anything. When you have to be like a baby, Who is brought to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even those who come to Faith older in life. They know they're coming like babies. Like those who can't do, as those, who can't do anything in themselves, or for themselves who must depend entirely upon the Lord Jesus. And so, If you come with some doubt or whenever you have some doubt, You know, who am I Well, if you are Uh, baptized, you are a church member What are you supposed to do?

What am I supposed to do? Well, everything that Christ has commanded. You And how can you do it? By Christ's power. And presence. Man, let's pray.

Our gracious. God and our heavenly father. We're so thankful to you. For your patience with us for your persistence. With us. For exercising, your power upon us and unto us. Grant the ongoing Ministry of your spirit. To continually turn. Uh, outside away from ourselves. And unto yourself in your son.

Unto him, our Lord. Jesus Christ. Which we ask in his name. And his people say, Amen.