

**"THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST"****Introduction**

1. Here we have Christ's baptism
2. All is wonder: birth – baptism – death
3. It is all necessary to save us

**1. CHRIST WAS BAPTIZED BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY**

- 1) Two parts to Christ's life
  - (i) private
  - (ii) public
 

**OBSERVE**: He was a "polished shaft" (Isaiah 49)  
**APPLICATION**: Preachers need as a rule to prepare
- 2) John the Baptist at the height of his ministry
  - (i) his work was to "prepare" for Christ
  - (ii) his preaching was an awakening call  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "a voice crying..." (Isaiah 40)
  - (iii) John's baptism – for repentance
  - (iv) the effect was nation-wide: Matthew 3:5
  - (v) and discriminating: the Pharisees
- 3) John's first reaction to Christ's request:
  - (i) he is shocked: Christ's majesty + perfection
  - (ii) Baptism is for sinners – how do we explain?  
**ANSWER**: Christ is sinless – but our sin-bearer

**2. THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST IS FULL OF MEANING**

- 1) It was to "fulfil all righteousness". (Expl.)
- 2) The possible mode of baptism NOT known
- 3) Three wonders at this Baptism:
  - (i) The heavens opened to Him:
    - this was where Christ had come from
    - this was where soon He would return
    - this is where His people would be  
**APPLICATION**: What comfort to our Lord – and to us!
  - (ii) The Spirit came down as a dove onto Christ
    - a dove: symbol of gentleness and peace
    - a joint-ministry of Son and Spirit
    - John saw and knew its significance  
**APPLICATION**: Christian faith makes us peaceable
  - (iii) The Voice of the Father
    - here and at the Transfiguration  
**APPLICATION**: Let us remember the love of these Persons

**3. THESE ARE COMFORTING LESSONS FOR CHRISTIANS HERE**

- 1) Baptism is an ordinance of God – the sacraments are for our comfort.
- 2) Our service to Christ makes us feel, like John, our utter unworthiness, but it is acceptable.
- 3) The Trinity said, "Let us make man".  
Here they virtually say, "Let us save".

- 4) The Voice of God was heard at Sinai. Here at Jordan: Law and Gospel.  
**OBSERVE**: God's order: Law first. to awaken.
- 5) The love of the divine Persons is a lesson to us all as believers.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. O what comfort! Christ is baptized so as to answer for my sins!
2. Our baptism is a dying and rising in Him to eternal life.

<p><b>PSALM</b></p> <p><b>42: 1 – 5</b></p> <p><b>40: 5 – 8</b></p> <p><b>42: 10 - 11</b></p>
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